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A
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OF
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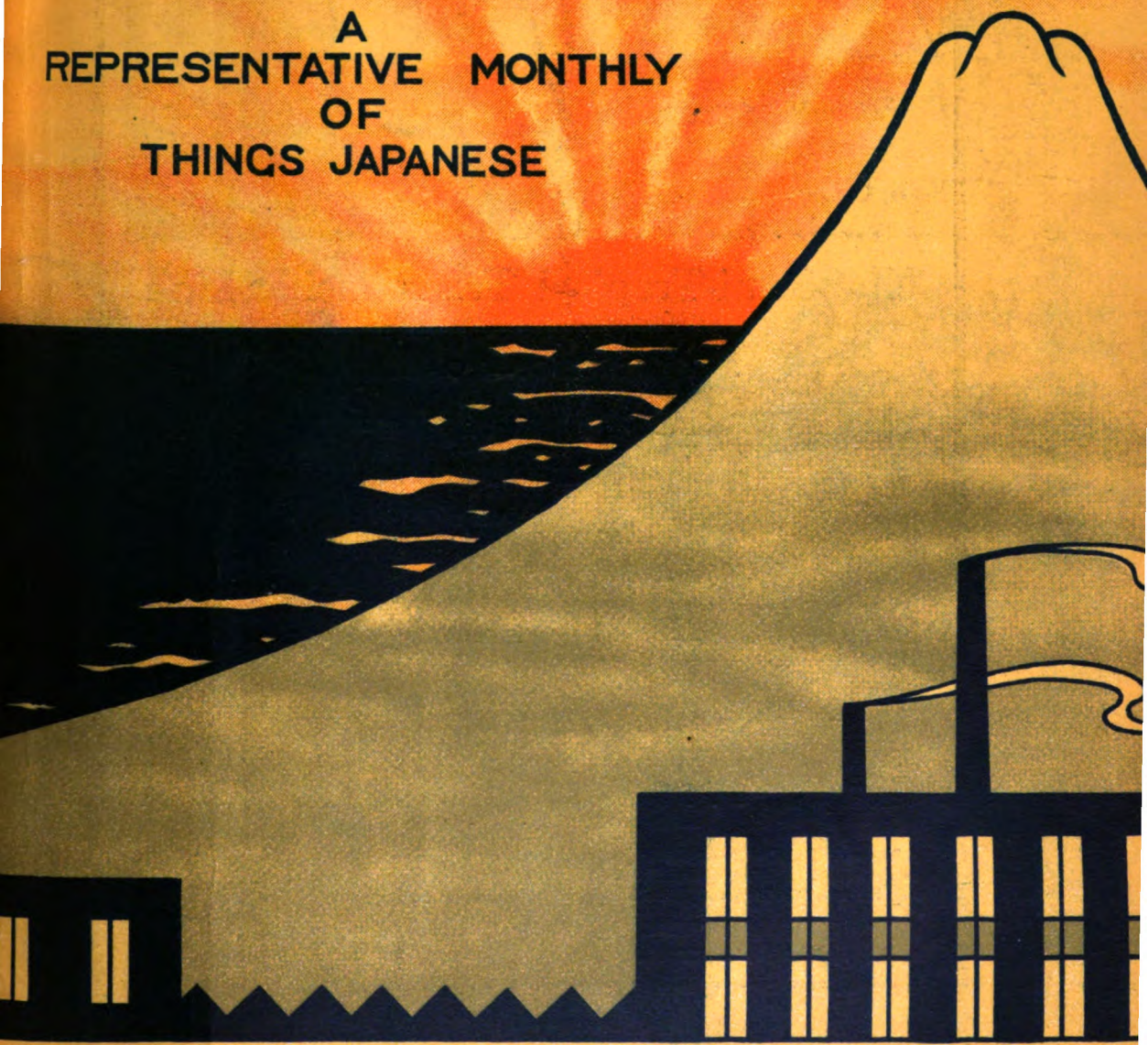

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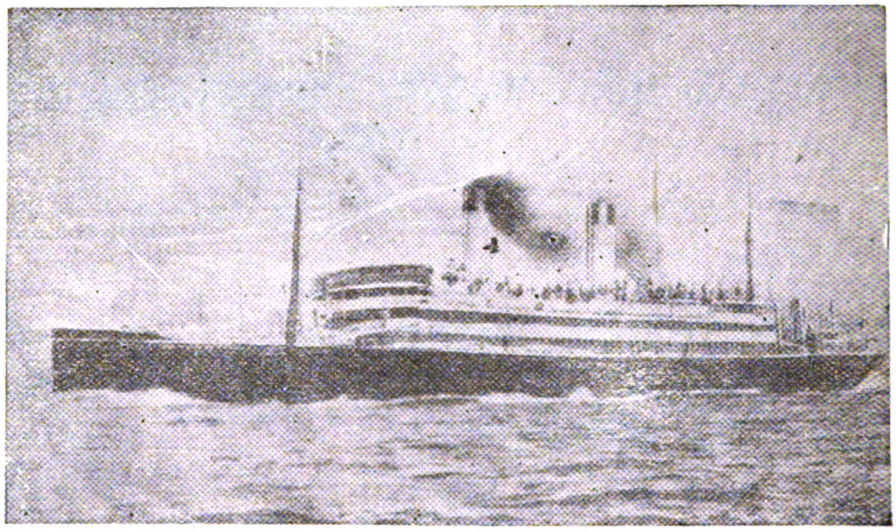

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THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

A REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY OF THINGS JAPANESE

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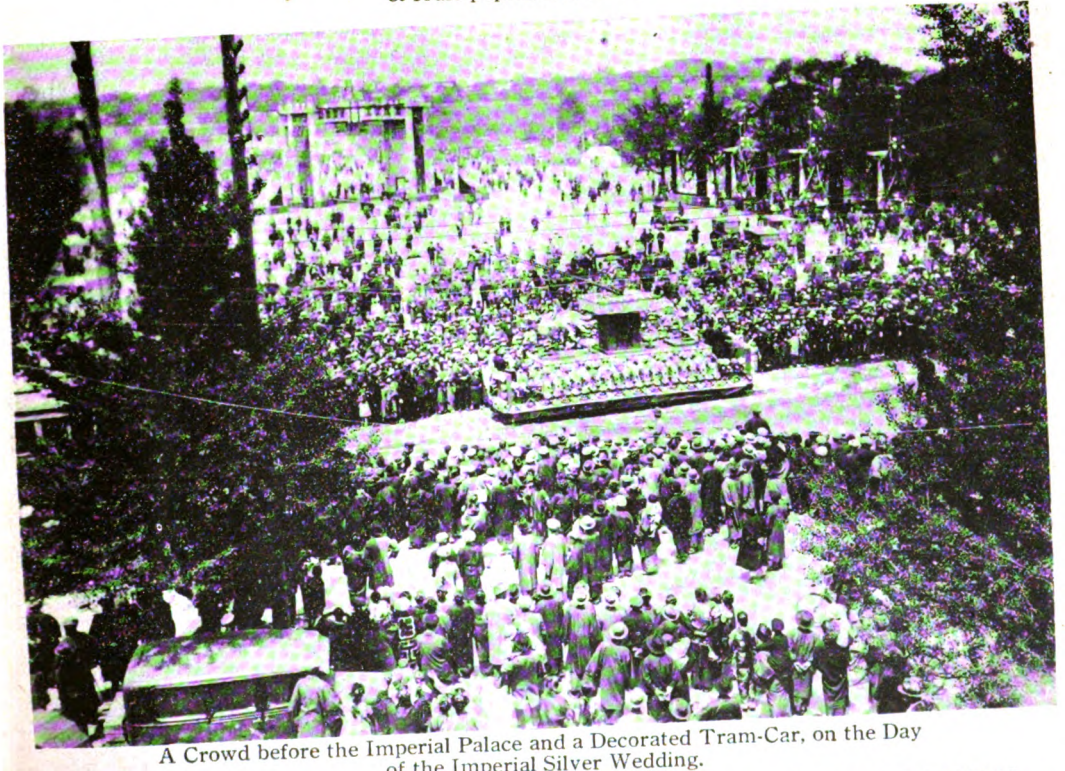
A Memorial Arch Erected Opposite the Imperial Palace in Celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding and a Crowd Round it.

Arc commémoratif élevé en face du palais impérial à l'occasion de L.L.M.M.I.I. et foule populaire autour.



A Crowd before the Imperial Palace and a Decorated Tram-Car, on the Day of the Imperial Silver Wedding.

Foule devant le palais impérial et un tramway décoré, le jour des noces d'argent de L.L.M.M.I.I.

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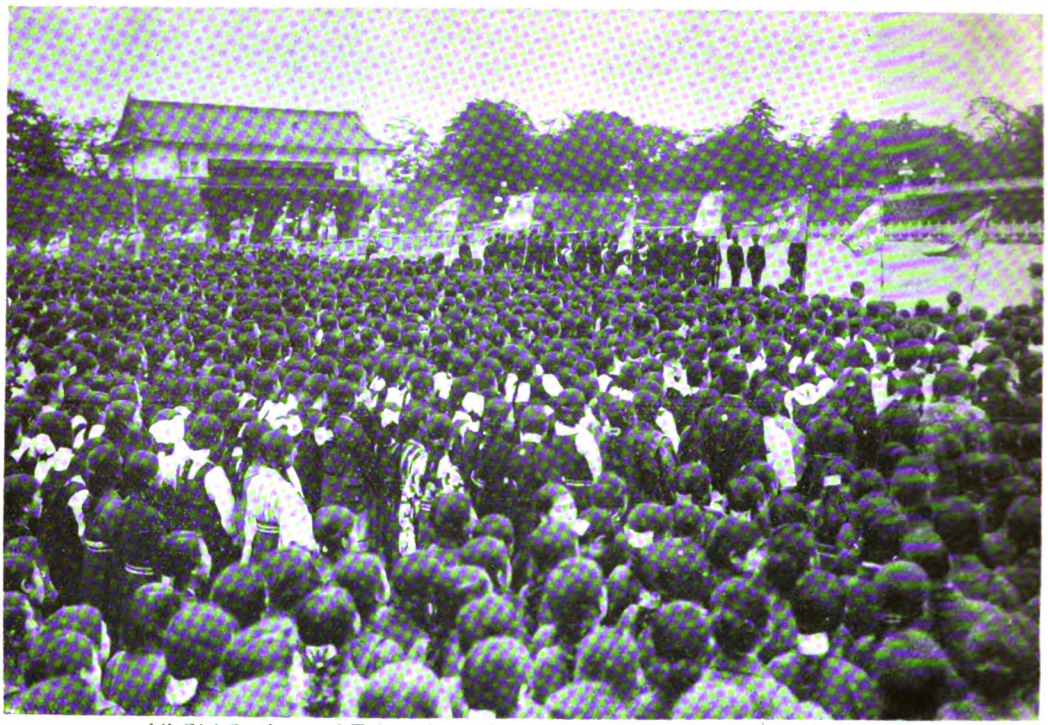

All Girl Students of Tokyo Assembling at the Imperial Palace Grounds to Celebrate the Imperial Silver Wedding.

Les jeunes étudiantes de toutes les écoles de Tokio, assemblées dans l'esplanade du palais impérial.

Primary School Pupils Marching in Celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding.

Elèves d'écoles primaires en procession.

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THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

VOL. XV MAY, 1925 No. VIX

The Month In Progress

THE EDITOR'S DIARY

APRIL 16.—There has been a great change in the personnel of high Naval officers. Admiral K. Suzuki, High Military Councillor, was appointed Chief of the Naval Staff Office, Admiral G. Yamashita, the Chief of the Naval Staff Office, a High Military Councillor, Vice-Admiral K. Yasuho the Commander-in-Chief of the Kure Admiralty and Vice-Admiral S. Momotake the Commander-in-Chief of the Saseho Admiralty, to succeed Admiral Y. Takeshita and Admiral H.I.H. Prince Hiroyasu respectively, who were appointed High Military Councillors, and Vice-Admiral Osumi was appointed the Vice-Minister of the Navy.

April 17.—Mr. S. Nishimura, an expert swimmer, sail soon from Kobe for London for the purpose of swimming the Dover Strait.

The installation ceremony took place in the Imperial Palace before the Prince Regent of Mr. U. Noda, and Mr. K. Okazaki, appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry respectively, in the place of Mr. K. Takahashi.

April 19.—Increased sun-spots are feared to be an ill omen of a great crop failure this year. Professor Dr. Nakamura of the Tohoku university states that the crop failed in 1909 and 1917 for the same reason as above, when the North-Eastern District suffered most severely. This year, too, the same district will perhaps have the worst crop.

April 20.—The first air-mail service in Japan was started to-day from Tachikawa near Tokyo to Osaka and from Osaka to Fukuoka. The *Asahi* No. 31 taking mail, sent to Tachikawa by an automoblie from the Tokyo Central Office, started for Osaka shortly after noon in the face of a strong westerly wind and reached Osaka at 3 P. M. The flight was successful and took only 2 hours and 40 minutes between the two places. A similarly successful result was obtained by the aviator from Osaka to Fukuoka. Taking mail from Osaka, he left the place at 11.10 A.M. and arrived at Fukuoka at 2.50 P.M., the time taken being only 3 hours and 40 minutes.

H. I. H. Prince Chichibu leaving Japan shortly for foreign travel, members of the sporting and athletic societies in Tokyo as embled at the Meiji Shrine Stadium to

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bid farewell to the Prince. There were 5,000 school children and members of young men's associations and boy-scouts. Each body marched past the Prince.

April 22.—The weavers are said to be hard hit by the general tradal dullness and to be producing only common patterns for this summer season, refraining from putting out novel patterns. At every dry-goods store, one can see no showy fashionable *yukata* cloths this time. The demand for flannels and serges is said to be only about one-half of the usual year and prices are expected to fall off 30 per cent., when the season advances a little more.

The *Akagi*, a seaplane-tender, was launched at the Kure Admiralty's dock today.

New Chilian Minister accredited to Tokyo.
Nouveau Ministre du Chili à Tokio.

New Brazilian Ambassador accredited to Tokyo.
Nouveau Ambassadeur du Brésil à Tokio.

April 24.—Mr. T. Tanaka, formerly the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been chosen as the new Japanese Ambassador to Russia. It was previously decided to appoint Mr. Yoshizawa, now Minister in Peking, but the result of Dr. Omi's medical examination of his sprain compelled the Japanese Government to give up the appointment.

April 24.—The Japanese Navy is extending its aviation corps under a plan to have 17 corps by 1929 as against the present 12 corps.

April 25.—Mr. Coupe the new Russian Ambassador, and his suite arrived at Tokyo Station on the 24th. They were very strictly guarded by the police at the station.

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April 26.—The Mayor Selection Committee of the Yokohama Municipal Council unanimously decided to recommend Mr. Ariyoshi as a candidate for the Mayorship at a general meeting of the Council to be held early in May. Mr. Ariyoshi was formerly the Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture. He is considered to be a man of ability with a clear head.

April 27.—The biggest sub-marine boat in Japan had been built at the Kure Naval Arsenal. This boat, No. 52, has a displacement of 1,700 tons. She has specially designed by the Imperial Navy.

April 28.—Mr. R. Uchida, President of the Kokuryu-kai, has been prosecuted in connection with a plot to assassinate the Premier.

New Russian Ambassador accredited to Tokyo.

Nouveau Ambassadeur de Rusie Soviétique à Tokio.

April 29.—The Japan Aerial Transportation Researth Institute has decided to start an air-mail service between Osaka and Shikoku on May 20th. It has been making preparations for it since sometime last year.

April 29.—The Chinese Legation is to be promoted shortly to an Embassy with Mr. Yoshizawa, the present Minister in Peking, as the first Ambassador. At the same time, the Chinese Legation in Tokyo will be made an Embassy.

April 30.—In connection with the proposed construction of a large threatre in Yokohama for the foreign and Japanese residents, the Yokohama Fukko-kai has decided to adopt the type of the Kabuki Theatre, Tokyo, in accordance with the desire of the resident foreigners, who supports the idea of the purely Japanese style much more than the Western style.

May 1.—A great change is reported in the personnel of high military officers. 10 Major-Generals were promoted to Lieutenant-Generals and 20 Colonels to Major-Generals. Lieutenant-Generals Morioka and Muto were appointed High Military Councillors, Lieutenant-General Kanaya the Vice-Chief of the Military Staff Office, Lieutenant-General Tanaka the Commander of the Guard Division, Lieutenant-General Wada the Commander of the First Division, Lieutenant-General Itami the Commander of the 9th Division, and Lieutenant-General Watanabe the Director of the Military College.

May 2.—It is understood that an Imperial grant of 1,000,000 yen will be made to the young men' and women' associations, religious associations and other public bodies throughout the country, out of the cost of the celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding, which will be carried out in the simplest possible way.

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May 3.—In connection with an Imperial gift to be made to persons advanced age on the occasion of the Imperial Silver Wedding, the total number of those not less than ninety years stood at 17,500 throughout Japan on May 2nd, of whom those of not less than 110 years numbered 11, headed by Mrs. Ishi Shiraishi in Nagasaki Prefeture, who is aged 114. It is noteworthy that 9 of these most aged persons are women.

May 4.—Negotiations have been progressing for the combination of three political parties, the Seiyu-kai, the Kakushin Club and the Chusei Club and they are said to have been concluded nearly successfully.

May 5.—The Manhood Suffrage Law was promulgated in to-day's "Official Gazette."

May 6.—A celebration of the promulgation of the Manhood Sugrage Law was held to-day at the Seiyo-ken Restaurant, Uyeno. About 5,000 persons attended it, including the Cabinet Ministers and parliamentary and non-parliamentary members of the Government parties

May 7.—The Cabinet has announced an outline of next fiscal year's administarative re-adjustment, which will aim principally at the unification of official organizations, the simplicity of business and the enhancement of efficiency and not at a financial retrenchment and the dismissal of officials as in this fiscal year. The principal items published of the re-adjustment include the adjustment and unification of the Government monopolies.

It is announced officially that 308 dutiful children, chaste women, loyal men and men and women of virtuous conduct will be commended publicly on the occasion of the Imperial Wedding throughout Japan.

The 33rd ordinary general meeting of the Japan Red Cross Society was held in the Constitution Memorial Hall, Aoyama, Tokyo on the 6th. H. I. M. the Empress was present at it.

May 8.—It is officially announced that H. H. the Crown Princess seems to be pregnant.

The building cost of the proposed Tokyo Municipal underground railway is estimated at 187,020,000 yen, which works out at 4,500,000 yen per mile. The work of construction will be started by the end of this year.

May 9.—Mr. K. Mushakoji, Embassy Councillor, has been decided to be the Envy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Roumania.

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Manhood Suffrage in Japan

AFTER many years of discussion the manhood suffrage question in Japan at last was solved recently, when the Imperial Diet approved the Government bill providing for it, and it will be put into operation from the next general election.

The first election law in Japan was proclaimed on February 11th, 1889 with the promulgation of the Constitution. Then the franchise and eligibility were determined with special regard to property and were given to those paying yearly a direct national tax (land or income taxes) of not less than 15 yen for not less than one year, it being the small electorate system.

Eleven years later, in March, 1900, the Yamagata Cabinet revised it greatly, essentially in regard to the tax-qualification of the franchise, reducing the minimum limit payment to 10 yen a year by those paying simply the land tax for not less than one year or by those paying another direct national tax or the land and other national taxes for not less than two years. This had the consequence of increasing the number of electors from 460,000 to 1,460,000. At the same time, the large electorate system was adopted and the cities were made independent constituencies in order to get more representatives among the traders and manufacturers than before. In 1919, the election law was revised for the second time.

The first proposal for the adoption of the manhool suffrage system was introduced in the Diet in 1903, when it was in the 18th session, by C. Itakura and five other members of the Liberal Party. The same representation was made by K. Matsumoto and four others in the Diet in the 24th session in 1908. Since then, it was proposed in every session. In the 27th session, it was moved by T. Hinata, M. Kawara, S. Sakakida and 21 Seiyukai members, and it at last passed the Lower House, but was killed in the Upper House. For the subsequent ten years, no parliamentary proposal for it was made, but in 1919, the Hara Cabinet in appreciation of the demand for extending the franchise, effected a revision of the election law, lowering the tax-qualification from 10 to 3 yen of any national tax paid for not less than one year by those residing in the same district not less than six months, instead of not less than one year as previously, and adopting again the small electorate system. In consequence, the number of electors increased to 3,000,000. Even this revision could not, however, mitigate the popular demand for manhood suffrage, and in 1910, when the Diet was in the 42nd session, a popular agitation for it was started, while in the Diet, proposals were introduced separately by the Kensei-kai, the Kokuminto and the Parliamentary Manhood Suffrage Society.

The Kensei-kai's proposal was for men not younger than 25 of independent life and for the adoption of the middle electorate system, the Kokuminto's proposal was for men not younger than 20 without the restriction of any economic qualification and for the adoption of the small electorate system. The Parliamentary Manhood Suffrage Society's proposal was

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for men not younger than 20 without any restriction of any economic qualification.

The above three proposals passed the committee and were placed before the Lower House. Before speeches in support of the proposals began, however, the Premier Mr. Hara suddenly appeared on the rostrum and declared his opposition. Just at this moment, an Imperial Rescript dissolving the Diet was received and read by the Premier. The Government took this step under the pretext of appealing to fair public judgement of the question. The general election that ensued had the result that the pro-Gevernment Seiyu Party had an absolute majority as before.

Another proposal for manhood suffrage was submitted to the Diet in the 43rd session in July, the same year by the Kensei-kai and the Kokumin-to, but it was rejected. At the beginning of 1921, the same parties proposed it, but were unsuccessful. This impaired the parties' standing with the public supporters of the question.

Arrangements were, therefore, made between the two opposition parties for cooperation, and on December 26th, 1921, when the 45th session of the Diet was opened, the Manhood Suffrage Union was formed between them, with a compromise of their plans that the franchise and eligibility should be given to any man not younger than 25, without the restriction of any economic qualification and recognizing the eligibility of the Shinto and Buddhist priests and teachers.

This plan was proposed in the Diet on February 11th, 1922, on the *Kigensetsu* Day by 164 members of the Kensei-kai, the Kokuminto, the Koshin-Club and independents. The Premier desired the Diet to disapprove it on the ground of being premature and it was voted down again.

At the next session of the Diet in 1923, a great demonstration was made by about 30,000 persons advocating the immediate operation of the suffrage, and on February 24th, the day following the above compromise was again put before the Lower House. It was debated for three days and on the 4th day, March 1st, the Premier Admiral Kato spoke in disapproval of it. A vote being taken, it was thrown out. Later, the Premier had the question investigated by a special committee but soon after he died.

The Yamamoto Cabinet, which succeeded the Kato Cabinet, decided in favour of manhood suffrage, but it resigned before the bill was introduced in the Diet.

The succeeding Kiyoura Cabinet declared it would present the bill to the Diet and referred it to the Privy Council for deliberation. But it was withdrawn for the council, as the Diet was dissolved. The general election that ensued went against the Cabinet, which was compelled to resign on June 7th.

The manhood suffrage question was thus disapproved by the Diet everv time it was brought before it, but the Government saw the impossibility of any longer resisting the popular demand for it, and appointed at first an investigation commission and then declared its willingness to put it into practice.

Upon its formation on June 11th, 1924, the present Kato Ministry, a coalition of the Kensei-kai, the Seiyu-kai and Kakushin Club, stood for the adoption of manhood suffrage. It made a compromise

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with the Opposition in the House of Peers, which was adopted by the Cabinet and referred to the Privy Council. There it was deliberated upon by a special committee for about two months. It was amended in more than 10 points, the principal of which were the age limit of eligible persons was made 30 instead of 25 in the original plan, the addition of the item "those who are relieved at public or private expense, on account of poverty," to the disqualifications for franchise and eligibility and of peers to those who have no right to vote or are ineligible for election, and extension of the period of suspension of franchise and eligibility of those committing infamous crimes and the scrutiny of all votes. The bill was approved with these amendments by the Privy Council on February 20th.

The Government accepted the amendments and presented the bill to the Diet on the afternoon of the same day. On the day following, the bill came before the Lower House. Premier Kato delivered a speech on the measure and Home Minister Wakatsuki explained details of the revision of the Election Law, after which it was referred to a special committee of 36 members.

The special committee met several times. The opinion of each party represented on the committee was strongly asserted and opposing views were so conflicting there seemed no hope of reconciliation. The Opposition proposed the following important amendments to the Government bill:—

That the peers be given franchise and eligibility.

That the votes be scrutinized at each voting-place, which shall be set up in each village or town and in each ward of the cities.

The Seiyu-honto men proposed many amendments. On the vote being taken, however, the Governments' proposal was adopted, and it was presented to the Lower House on the following day. At the meeting of the house, on that day Mr. T. Tokonami the President of the Seiyu-honto, and two others presented an amended bill, which was explained by Mr. Tokonami. Then, the house entered into a discussion of the bill. But the Opposition could not change the situation, and the bill was carried by a majority vote as amended by the committee. Manhood suffrage thus passed the Lower House fourteen years after its last passage.

The Upper House received the bill from the Lower House on March 4th, and it was referred to a committee of 27 members, after volleys of questions for four days. The committee met eight times and adopted the following amendments:—

1. Persons who are relieved or supported at public or private expence, are disqualified for election and franchise.

2. Peers are not enfranchised and have not eligibility.

3. The legal term of residence of the electors is extended from 6 months to a year.

4. The limits of voting in absence are extended.

5. By-elections may be made to fill even a vacancy.

The special committee met finally on March 24th and adopted the amended bill.

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The bill was put on the order of the day for the 25th.

On that morning a few you hs, in support of manhood suffrage, raided the mansion of Mr. K. Suzuki, who was regarded as leading the opponents to the bill in the Upper House, and then visited the mansions of Viscount Watanabe, Viscount Aoki, and Viscount Mizuno, to intimidate them.

Consequently, the House deferred the discussion of the bill and considered at first a financial bill, after which an interpellation was made, criticizing the Home Minister Mr. Wakatsuki concerning the raid affair.

The Manhood Suffrage Bill was then brought up for discussion at about 8 P.M. It was the last day of the current session.

At about 9.30 P. M., when the Chairman of the Special Committee had reported on the bill, an Imperial Rescript was received extending the session for one day.

On the 26th, the bill came up for lengthy discussion. After a hot debate, it was adopted as amended by the Special Committee, and the amended bill was at once sent to the Lower House. Another Imperial Rescript was issued extending the session for two days further.

On the 27th, the Lower House threw out the amended bill by a majority vote. Upon this, the measure was submitted to a joint conference of delegates of the two Houses. It was very hard to find a basis for compromise, on the 27th, the delegates of each house opposing the other in deference to the decision of their respective house.

The committee met again on the 28th. After deliberation from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., no understanding could be reached, the delegates of each House not taking a conciliatory attitude.

Finally, a small committee of five members from each House was chosen out of the committee by means of which a compromise was sought.

The small committee met, but the members of each House stood their ground. There was little room for compromise and the conference was brought to the verge of rupture.

The two Houses were filled with gloom and uncertainty. The inner councils of each party of the two Houses considered steps to be adopted. The end of the extended session was drawing nearer and nearer until there was only about an hour left.

At this dramatic moment Mr. K. Okazaki, a delegate of the Lower House, proposed an amendment to the clause covering disqualification for voting and election. This proposal was supported by Dr. R. Mizuno, a delegate of the Upper House. This saved the conference from being broken off.

Five other points at issue were settled by mutual concession. At 11. 30 P. M. the amended bill passed the conference.

Just at this moment, the third Imperial Rescript was received, extending the session for two days.

On the 29th, the amended bill came before the Lower House, and it was passed by a majority vote. It was then sent to the Upper House, which considered and approved it by a large majority.

The third great revision of the Election Law of Members of the House of Representatives was thus effected, adopting manhood suffrage which had been previously submitted ten times to the Diet since 1903 without success.

The new law grants the franchise and eligibility to most men of Japan, without question of tax qualification, after twenty-two years of a limited franchise. This is a great success and a prominent event in the history of Japanese Constitutional government.

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The History of the Japan Red Cross Society

(Concluded)

By Baron S. Hirayama, President of the Society

WHEN the Civil Code was put in force in Japan, it contained provisions for juridical persons and foundational juridical persons. This new law required such big organizations as the Japan Red Cross Society to re-organize themselves into either one of these juridical persons.

Having taken the counsel of legal advisers, the society directorate saw the impropriety of adopting the system of foundational juridical persons, for the society was made up principally of a large number of members throughout the whole country. It was decided, therefore, to take the form of juridical persons, and it drafted the necessary statutes. These statutues were approved at its general meeing in 1898.

When the Civil Code was enacted, the legislators could not foresec the existence of such a giant body as the Red Cross. The law provided for the annul meeting of the organizations. It was very expensive for the society to hold a regular annual meeting, and the directorate wished it were possible to make an exception in the law and to allow the society to hold a general meeting once in two or three years. But this was declared to be impracticable by the Government authosities. Hence, the above statutes were drawn up and approved by the society's general meeting as above. But their going into operation was deferred until 1901, when they were officially approved.

In the meantime, the society had come into closer relations with the Government, mainly as a result of the Japan-China War and the Boxer Trouble. In appreciation of this, the Japan Red Cross Society Law was proclaimed in 1901 under Imperial Ordinance No. 233, legally establishing its qualifications and defining its position in relation to the Government. Under this law, its President has since been appointed by Imperial Ordinance and the Army has accorded good treatment to its relief contingents in war.

The society had been completely equipped when the Japan-Russia War broke out. During the campaign, it could despatch contingents more and more with the progress of the situation and send its nurses aboard the hospital-ships. It had quite a good number of its own nurses, but felt the shortage of nurses as the war situation developed, when it had to recruit them from private nurses' associations. Its relief work cost about 5,000,000 yen.

The society was interested in the Japan-German War in 1914 and sent contingents to England, France and Russia in the World War. It relieved the Czechs in Vladivostock and did different other work in connection with the war during and after it, as is widely known to the public.

To go back a little to the time when the society's hospital was erected on the present site, it was found necessary to build provincial hospitals in addition to the central one, which might be used as military base hospitals when necessity arose in time of war, calling upon the Red Cross for relief work. It was decided to locate its hospitals in the districts of the thirteen

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Divisions and Naval ports, for use by the Army and Navy in time of emergency and for the society for training members of relief parties in time of peace.

In 1900, the Red Cross Hospital Rules were formulated in consequence with the approval of the military authorities. The idea was good, but it was practically impossible to carry it out exactly. It was by no means an easy matter to manage a hospital. Moreover, it was financially impossible for the society to set up more than ten hospitals and to put in operation the above rules.

In the meantime, the Japan - Russia War broke out, and the society devoted its whole energies to the relief work. Later, the above project had to be given up as quite beyond the range of possibilty.

This was followed by a hope to establish hospitals by the society's branch offices themselves. The most enthusiastic promotor of the system was Mr. J. Kawashima, the Governor of Shiga Prefecture, who conjointly with other Governors, or the chiefs of the society's branch offices, applied to the society for permission to build branch hospitals in 1903. This project found increasing support, which induced the society's executive to approve it and to promulgate the Branch Hospital Rules in 1903, when it was decided to establish one at first in Miye Prefeture and then in Shiga and Nagano Prefectures. Other branch offices followed suit one after another as the years went on.

In 1903, it was determined to establish an endowment fund to the amount of 15,-000,000 yen in the period of ten years ending 1912. This was another important thing occurring in the year. The plan was decided on and realized by Prince Matsukata, the successor to Count Sano, the society's first President, who died in 1902. As every body knows, the Prince did very much in the financial direction of the state and showed a special talent for it.

In his last years, Count Sano decided to create an andowment fund of 10,000,000 yen to provide for emergencies, and I made a plan under his direction. The Count died before the plan was carried out. His successor, Prince Matsukata, supported the idea and adopted the plan with the amount of endowment increased from 10,000,000 yen to 15,000,000 yen.

H.I.H. Prince Komatsu, the Honorary President of the society, gracisusly looked after its interests as if it were his personal affair. Count Sano was in poor health for some years before his death and had always in mind the selection of some one suitable to take over his position, before his death. I was often consulted about it, and he told me his wish to have either Prince Matsukata among the civilians or Prince Oyama among the military officers to take the post.

About 1902, Prince Matsukata set out on a tour through Europe and America, and H.I.H. Prince Komatsu visited England, too, to attend the sixtieth anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, if I remember correctly, and came back by the Siberian route after being the guest of Russia. It happened that Prince Matsukata visited Russia after travelling through various other countries. The Russian Imperial House provided a special train for H. I. H. Prince Komatsu, and Prince Matsukata took the same train with his special permission.

The Imperial Prince, who had been anxious about the successor to Count Sano, wished Prince Matsukata to take over the affairs of the Japan Red Cross Society, finding him, undoubtedly, to be

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the most suitable for the position. He was surprised at the suggestion as he had never thought of it. He was grateful but declined to accept it.

The Imperial Prince did not give up his wish. He often asked Prince Matsukata to accept the post, but he would not consent to it. Being connected with both sides, I am well acquainted with the circumstances. Prince Matsukata told me that he would accept the wish of the Imperial Prince, if the Red Cross Society's affairs were in disorder, but that it being in a healthy and prosperous condition, he could not associat himself with it without being sensitive to the thought of the society's people that he was usursing the merits of their splendid work by the assumption of the leadership of the society with which he had not been connected.

The Imperial Prince desired very earnestly Matsukata to take the position, and asked me to persuade him privately, while he would talk him round openly. Having been visited personally by the Imperial Prince who expressed the earnest hope that he would take up the task, Prince Matsukata could not any longer obstinately decline the offer and at last accepted it on condition that he should succeed Count Sano upon his death. Soon the letter died, compelling Prince Matsukata to succeed him.

Prince Matsukata enlarged Count Sano's plan for the society's endowment fund, increasing its amount from 10,000,000 yen to 15,000,000 yen. This plan was successfully consummated in 10 years. It was attempted then to create a similar fund by each branch office of the society in a period of 8 years, through the efforts of the Vice-President Baron Ozawa and some other persons. In the meantime, Prince Matsukata resigned his position after being 10 years with the society, and he was succeeded by the Vice-President Baron Hanabusa. Some branch offices could establish the endowment fund as assigned, while other offices could not. In total, however, the funds overreached the original estimate, if I remember correctly.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross work made progress in all countries, where peace-time work was undertaken by the societies. The Japan Red Cross Society was first interested in relief work in a natural calamity in 1888 and later set its hand to the work of preventing tuberculosis. In peace-time work, it never fell behind any foreign Red Cross.

In the Workd War, the Red Cross Societies of the workd did much relief work with great exertions. When the war was over, it was found necessary to do peace-time relief work by making nse of what was left after the war, seeking the Red Cross objectives in the wide range of the improvement of health, the prevention of diseases, the mitigation of pain, etc.

At the same time, the Peace Treaty urged the formation of the Red Cross in each belligerent country. As an outcome of this, the Red Cross League was organized with Japan as a promoter. When the Red Cross was started upon conference at Geneva by all countries' representatives, the Red Cross International Committee was appointed, and it had existed for sixty years when the Red Cross League was formed as above. The latter has been interested in peace-time work, and the former in both war-time and peace-time work. The existence of these two central Red Cross organizations has been in practice inconvenient, but their combination

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has not yet been arranged though negotiations often have been carried on.

The international relations of the Japan Red Cross Society have been more and more complicated, necessitating it to bear yearly a considerable share of the cost. The society made healthy development through many changes since its foundation in 1877, until it attained its present position, which is internationlly very important.

Before the war, the Society had the largest number of members in the world, but during the campaign, America with her immense wealth got her Red Cross members increased suddenly from 600,000 or 700,000 to over 20,000,000 by her special system, which admits any one paying $1 as a member for one year. The latest number of her Red Cross members is given as about 3,500,000, which is larger than that of Japan, which has fallen to the second position. We cannot rival, in the Red Cross and other works, rich America, and we have to be content with doing all that we can well afford to do.

The development of the Japan Red Cross Society owes much to the great favour, which the Imperial House has graciously accorded it since its foundation. The Hakuaisha, its predecessor, was established under the direct patronage of T. I. M. the Emperor and Empress. This was a unique favour, producing a very good impression on the people at large. The Society has since been often granted money by the Imperial House, including 100,000 yen donated towards the building cost of the present head hospital and a yearly grant to the society and its hospital, although that to the society was declined some years ago. I have already talked of the keen interest taken by H. I. H. Prince Komatsu in the work of the Society, and H. I. H. Prince Kan-in, his successor, has been likewise pleased to carefully look after it. It should be remembered that he was placed in the position at the special desire of the Emperor Meiji, who considered him best for it.

Among those who rendered great service to the society I can mention the names of its first President Count Sano and its first Vice-President Count Ogyu, its second President Marquis Matsukata and its third President Viscount Hanabusa the letter of whom was long its Vice-President, Surgeon-General Hashimoto, the Director of its Hospital, Viscount Ishiguro and Baron Ozawa of the Army Department, Viscount N. Matsudaira, T. Sakurai and C. Matsudaira among other Peers and Mr. M. Kasahara, who long served the society as the Chief Manager at first and then as a member of its Council and as its Director. We must not forget the merits of these persons.

Finally to speak about Count Sano, he, who was at first a physician of the Saga clan, enjoyed the special favour of the famous Lord Nabeshima Kanso of the clan, who found in him something, which would make him better as a statesman than as a medical man, and entrusted him with the foundation of a navy and with different other important affairs.

In connection with these affairs, he learned something from the Dutch in Nagasaki and associated with intelligent men of different clans. In the third year of Keio (1867), he went to Holland to supervice the building of a warship there for the Saga clan. While he was there, an international fair was held at Paris, and some products were exhibited by the Tokugawa Government and the Kagoshima and Saga Clans. Count Sano visited Paris on business connected with the fair and learned something about the Red Cross.

Upon his return home, he entered the Military Department. He is known as one of those, who rendered the most meritorious services in the foundation of the Im-

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perial Navy. Rear-Admiral Sano, who is a member of the Japan Red Cross Society's Council, is his son.

Later, he was transferred to the Industrial Department and visited Austria in 1873 as the Japanese Minister and the Vice-President of the Japanese Office of the Austrian Exhibition. He did much towards the industrial development of Japan, too. I went with him to Austria at the age of 20 and got my first knowledge of the Red Cross.

Count Sano was additionally the Japapnese Minister accredited to Italy, but he could not proceed to the post in 1873 having too much business to attend to in Austria in connection with the exhibition. In January, 1874, he departed for the post, and took me with him, as none in the Japanese Exhibition at Vienna understood Fench.

I suffered from fever in Rome. Count Sano was much troubled and attended me himself in his hotel room. It was extraordinary that a chief official should nurse himself his young subordinate clerk. I got well and came back to Vienna, when Count Sano contracted a disease, which took him to different places for a change of air. At the end of 1884, he recovered his health and left for Japan. On the way, 41 nursed him.

In Japan, he successively served as a Senator and as the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. In the meantime, he was eagerly interested in the Red Cross work and industrial encouragement.

He was always anxious about state affairs. Prince Itô once told of interviews with him. The Prince conversed always standing with Sano, in order to quickly conclude the interview, as he was tedious. When he recollected what his visiter had told him, however, the Prince found nothing but state questions, and he often regretted his unwelcoming treatment accorded the visitor.

Count Sano died in 1902 at the age of 81. His father was experienced in economies and rendered great services to the Saga Clan in managing its financial affairs. He became seriously ill with cancer of the tongue. An elder brother of Count Sano being in great anxiety over it, prayed for his father's recovery, offering his life as a sacrifice, for his father's death would bring incaluleable loss to the finances of the clan. This prayer may have been heard for the father recovered and the son died.

The foundation of the Japan Red Cross Society was laid and cemented by Count Sano, and we owe it to his memory to exert ourselves for the ever increasing prosperity of the Society.

Lerders of Two Political Parties Combined, Mr. H. Ogawa, Mr. T. Inukai and General Tanaka. (from left to right).

MM. H. Ogawa, T. Inukai et le général Tanaka, leaders des deux parties politiques coalisés, (de gauche à droite).

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What is Poetry?

By Edna Linsley Gressitt

WHAT is poetry? Many a definition has been framed, but has anyone ever really defined it? Many a description of what poetry is, or may be, has been written, both in poetry and in prose, but none has ever presented the whole truth. With *shi* abounding in Japanese, and vers libre, imagism, polyphonic prose, unrhymed meters, prose-poems, and poem-prose over-abounding in English, with Carl Sandburgs also among the poets, with "poems" on steam-engines and street-fights, vacuum-cleaners and chilblains, in these days, indeed, who can undertake to say what poetry is or what are the limits or the limbo of the sacred realm? Yet one might safely whisper that anywhere, at any time, with anybody, there are two indispensable qualities of poetry—feeling and melody.

In travelling with my red-dipped pen thru the hundreds of efforts in English of my pupils in Soshin Jogakko, I constantly come upon passages with the lift of emotion in them, and such music of language as is attainable by these girls in our foreign, difficult, faultful English. I am sending *The Japan Magazine* some gleanings from a crop of papers by fourth-year high school girls on the theme, "Some Beautiful Things Which I Have Seen." They are the thoughts of the girls, and for the most part their words, altered a little by my rhymes, rhythms, and repetitions, and making—well, is it poetry?

1.

By Yuriko Iida.

At the margin of the waters,
Stretching boundless on before,
  I stood watching.
On the shining shells and seaweed,
And the strange rocks of the shore,
  I stood watching.

Blue and blue and blue the waters,
Blue the sky o'er sea and land,
  Swept by winds.
Inward, outward, inward, outward,
Washed the waves upon the strand,
  Swept by winds.
One, two, three, four, five ships shining,
Six white ships afloat at sea,
  Sailing there.
Oh, I wish some white ship shining
On the waters carried me,
  Sailing there!

2.

By Toshiko Kikuchi.

We went to the park in the morning,
  On a sunny summer's day;
All troubles and toils a-scorning,
We went to the park in the morning.
There the flowers were gaily adorning,
  And the ducks and the carp at play,
When we went to the park in the morning,
  On a sunny summer's day.

3.

By Shigeko Takahashi.

Brightly shines the sun today,
  And all the leaves are green;
So my glad heart can sing and say,
"Brightly shines the sun today";
The flowers look fair along the way,
  In field or garden seen,
For brightly shines the sun today,
  And all the leaves are green.

4.

By Tomi Suzukawa.

In a home upon a hill
In an old town by the sea,
  I was born;
And my heart remembers still
Sunbeams reddening the sea,
  Night and morn.
When the golden day was done,
Down behind the guarding hill,
  Sank the sun;
Tucked in nests upon the trees,
Tiny birds were safe and still,
  Every one.

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5.

By Yaeru Sakamoto.

I like morning best of all;
At daybreak sounds the cock's bright call;
The hens are pleasantly talking, too,
And the plants' lively faces are fresh with dew.

6.

By Setsue Asai.

When we'd toiled to the mountain's summit,
A panorama outrolled,
Of slopes all scarlet and orange,
Autumn foliage all scarlet and orange,
And rice-fields yellow as gold.
Silent the hills and the valleys,
Quiet the woodland and wold;
Only a brook went whispering,
In the stillness a brook went whispering
To the gravestones mossy and old.

7.

By Hanaye Kodama.

White stands the school,
And white its tower,
And the sky is faintly blue;
Yellow and red are the autumn trees,
And the persimmons laughing through.

8.

By Mieko Fukuda.

One night when the moon was shining,
I walked in my garden fair,
Where the wee white flowers were blooming,
A-shine in the moonlight there.
I said, "The most beautiful of all things
Is to walk in a garden fair,
Where the wild white flowers are shining,
A-bloom in the garden there."

The Monument at Malta for the Dead Heroes of the Japanese Navy in the Mediterranean during the Great War.

Malta the small but the important island of the blue Mediterranean, the strongest naval base of the British Empire, has the honour of guarding the ashes of the brave and gallant officers and men of the 2nd Detached Japanese squadron who gave their precious lives during the Great War.

In the Beighi Naval Cemetery, the Japanese Government has erected a very imposing shrine of Italian marble, a work of a Maltese firm and executed under the direction of the Commander - in - Chief Admiral Kôzo Satô and his staff. The monument whch lies in the most cospicuous site of the Cemetery is surrounded by pine trees and flower plants.

This beautiful monument was visited by all officers and men of those men of war who visited Malta, and was also visited by H.I.H. Prince Hirohito during his memorable visit there in April of the year 1921 and a wreath of artificial flowers was placed by H.I.H. personally.

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Educational System of Japan

General Remarks.—Japan has primary schools for elementary education, middle schools, high girls' schools, commercial schools and supplementary commercial schools for middle grade education, high schools, universities, academies, and commercial colleges for higher education, normal schools, higher normal schools, girls' higher normal schools, special schools for training teachers, commercial teachers' training schools and supplementary commercial school teachers' training schools and kindergartens, blind schools, deaf and dumb schools and different other schools for special education.

The following table shows the number of schools under the jurisdiction of the Education Department and the number of students for the ten years ending 1922:

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Students.
1922	44,302	10,737,957
1921	43,820	10,424,362
1920	42,967	10,006,460
1919	41,950	9,638,853
1918	40,526	9,219,488
1917	39,382	8,855,692
1916	38,470	8,540,437
1915	37,810	8,275,497
1914	37,417	8,017,619
1913	36,777	7,893,719

Below are the numbers of schools and students classified into kinds in March, 1922:—

Schools	Number	Students
Primary Schools . .	25,562	8,872,006
Middle ,, . .	385	194,443
High Girls' ,, . .	580	176,759
Commercial ,, . .	692	149,970
Supplementary Commercial Schools . .	14,839	995,532
High Schools	17	10,512
Universities	18	26,208
Academies	77	41,742
Commercial Colleges	31	10,491
Normal Schools . . .	94	28,932
Higher Normal Schools	2	1,375
Girls' Higher Normal Schools	2	801
Special Teachers' Training School . .	1	200
Commercial Teachers' Training Schools	4	268
Supplementary Commercial School Teachers' Training Schools	18	421
Blind, Deaf and Dumb Schools	74	4,148
Other Schools	1,906	224,449
Total	44,302	10,737,957

The above table does not contain kindergartens. "Other schools" mean different kinds of schools, whose courses are not provided for by governmental regulations.

Elementary Education.—The elementary educational system was put in force in 1872 by an Imperial edict, which commanded all children to be educated, declaring the negligence of education to be the parents' fault. Later, the Educational Law was promulgated in 1880, ordering fathers, elder brothers or guardians to send children to school.

The law was often revised, until the present compulsory educational system was adopted. Under this system children of 6-14 years old are of school age and parents or guardians are in duty bound to send children to municipal, town or village schools or the corresponding Gevernment,

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prefectural or private schools, until graduated, although release or postponement are granted to children physically or mentally defective or whose parents or guardians cannot afford to send them to school.

It is also provided in the same law that those employing children of school age cannot keep them from receiving education on that account. The latest law providing for the minimum age of factory workers prohibits the employment of children of school age.

The Japanese people have had the desire to learn since ancient times, and all of them can send their children to school, except a very small portion of the poorest classes. Each prefectural Government has a fund for encouraging education among children, created with the foundation of an Imperial grant and appropriated yearly. There are some private charity organizations for protecting children of school age and facilitating their elementary education. No difficulty has, therefore, been experienced in enforcing the law.

Primary schools are established and maintained by the Municipalities, towns and villages, which well understanding the purport of the law, have made energetic efforts to carry out the obligation. The cost is borne to some extent by the Treasury, and this has helped much in spreading elementary education.

In March, 1922, the number of common and higher primary schools in Japan stood at 25,205, which works out at 2.1 schools per Municipality or town or village, and at 2.8 schools per 1,000 pupils. The attendance of children of school age has recently been 99 per cent. This may be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Number of Children of School Age.	Children Sent to School.	Children not Sent to School.	Proportion of Children Sent to School to the Total Per Cent.
1922	9,083,477	9,008,039	75,438	99.17
1921	8,897,022	8,810,474	86,548	99.03
1920	8,671,701	8,577,918	93,783	98.92
1913	7,344,339	7,214,585	129,754	98.23

The percentage of boys and girls sent to school was as follows:—

Year.	Boys *Per Cent.*	Girls *Per Cent.*
1922	99.30	99.03
1921	99.20	98.84
1920	99.14	98.68
1913	98.80	97.62

From the above table, it may be seen that there is only a slight difference in the number of boys and girls sent to school, the former showing a little higher than the latter. The Oriental custom formerly was to neglect the education of women, but this antiquated idea is no longer held as may be seen from nearly equal degree of education given to both sexes.

The primary school is divided into two classes, ordinary and high. The ordinary primary school receives children first sent to school and has a term of study of six years. The high primary school receives graduates of oridinary primary schools and has a term of study of two or three years. The primary school lessons are ethics, the Japanese language, arithmetic, Japanese history, geography, science, drawing (in ordinary primary schools only), singing, sewing (for girls only) and gymnastics. In the high primary school, one or more lessons are additionally given in manual

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training, agriculture, commerce or domestic science (for girls only). Manual training may be taught in ordinary primary schools, and drawing, a foreign language or some other lessons may be given, in high primary schools according to the conditions of the locality.

Below are shown the weekly schedules of the ordinary and high schools:

Ordinary Primary Schools.

Lesson.	1st Year. Hours	2nd Year. Hours	3rd Year. Hours	4th Year. Hours	5th Year. Hours	6th Year. Hours
Ethics	2	2	2	2	2	2
Japanese Language	10	12	12	12	9	9
Arithmetic	5	5	6	6	4	4
Japanese History	0	0	0	0	2	2
Geography	0	0	0	0	2	2
Science	0	0	0	2	2	2
Drawing	0	0	1	1	2 for Boys 1 for Girls	2 for Boys 1 for Girls
Singing and Gymnastics	4	4	1 for Boys 3 for Girls	1 for Boys 3 for Girls	2 for Boys 3 for Girls	2 for Boys 3 for Girls
Sewing	0	0	0	2	3	3
Total	21	23	25	27 for Boys 29 for Girls	28 for Boys 30 for Girls	28 for Boys 30 for Girls

In the first and second years, drawing may be taught for one hour in a week. Manual training may be taught for one hour in a week for the first, second and third year classes and two hours in a week for the fifth and sixth year classes.

High Primary School.

Lesson.	Two Years' Term of Study		Three Years Term of Study		
	1st Year. Hours	2nd Year. Hours	1st Year. Hours	2nd Year. Hours	3rd Year. Hours
Ethics	2	2	2	2	2
Japanese Language	8	8	8	8	8
Arithmetic	4	4	4	4	4
Japanese History	2	2	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2	2	2
Science	2	2	2	2	2
Singing	1	1	1	1	1
Gymnastics	3	3	3	3	3
Sewing	4	4	4	4	4
Total:					
Boys	24	24	24	24	24
Girls	28	28	28	28	28

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The above total hours may be increased by not more than 6 hours for boys and not more than 4 hours for girls, when manual training, agriculture, commerce, domestic science, drawing, a foreign language or some other lessons are added. The lesson hours may be increased every week, but their total must not be more than 30 hours for boys and 32 hours for girls, although some extra hours are allowed for practising.

One primary school may have the ordinary and high courses of study when it is called an ordinary and high primary school. Either department may have a supplementary class of not more than two years.

The parent or guardian discharges his obligation, under the present compulsory educational system, when his child finishes the ordinary course, which takes six years. This is not, however, sufficient in the existing circumstances. This fact has caused most municipalities, towns and villages to establish ordinary and high primary schools or high primary schools. Many of them have also established supplementary commercial schools, giving professional education to ordinary primary school graduates for four or five years. This being considered most important for the national education, it has been extended more and more under official protection and encouragement. This had the result of increasing the number of commercial supplementary schools in Japan to 14,839 at the end of March, 1922, which works out at 1.2 schools per municipality or town or village, while the number of ordinary and high primary schools and high primary schools works out at 1. Practically, therefore, Japanese elementary education is much longer than the six years' compulsory term.

Appended are the number of primary schools and of their pupils for a number of years past:—

Number of Primary Schools:

Year.	Ordinary Primary Schools	Ordinary and High Primary Schools.	High Primary Schools.	Total.
1922	13,380	11,825	357	25,562
1921	14,136	11,270	232	25,639
1920	14,548	10,839	257	25,644
1919	14,825	10,513	289	25,625
1918	15,090	10,221	318	25,629
1917	15,256	10,033	324	25,613
1916	15,417	9,813	348	25,578
1915	15,577	9,610	371	25,558
1914	15,842	9,369	404	25,615
1913	16,060	9,143	470	25,673

Number of Pupils:

Year.	Ordinary Course.	High Course.	Total.
1922	7,863,025	1,008,957	8,871,982
1921	7,723,491	909,335	8,632,826
1920	7,576,752	786,182	8,362,934
1919	7,411,726	725,567	8,137,293
1918	7,149,879	734,589	7,884,468
1917	6,924,376	729,642	7,654,018
1916	6,740,628	713,928	7,454,596
1915	6,593,942	669,739	7,263,682
1914	6,466,350	629,357	7,095,707
1913	6,432,060	605,346	7,037,406

(*To Be Continued*)

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Glimpses of Japanese Literature during the Kamakura and Muromachi Periods

(Concluded)

By Prof. F. Yamazaki

WITH the rising tendency of the general moral tone of the social life of the age religious beliefs had an accession of fervour accordingly. The faith of the Heian period was so primitive and so addicted to te nporal things that God or Buddha was worshipped for the mere purpose of invoking His help for the cure of illness, or for procuring easy childbirth, or for obtaining promotion to higher official rank, and such like benefits of a mundane character. Never did it flow from the irresistible prompting of conscience which aspired to the blessing of God or Buddha.

But in the Kamakura age things changed and religious life took on different aspect. In this age in consequence of the endless wars, the people were all ill at ease, and the machinery of government was disrupted, while official discipline slackened. With the frequent ocurrence of natural calamities the people's sufferings were extreme. People began to take seriously pessimistic views upon life, and felt disposed to rely upon some greater power. Their religious attitude was that of absolute dependence upon a power existing outside themselves. All these circumstances are vividly depicted in the *Hôjôki* (Notes in a Ten Feet Square Room) by Chômei Kamo.

Kamo expatiated at length upon the uncertainty of human life. Indeed, nothing endures in this world. Human life is the most curruptible, like morning dew that is scattered by the wind before it greets the sun. With reflections upon the sixty years of his life, he gives a detailed account of the numerous calamities that his contemporaries had experienced such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, famines, etc., concluding with an exhortation to his contemporaries that they who had survived these horrors should absolutely attach themselves to Buddha and pray that they be received into Paradise. He himself made a little hermitage, of ten feet square, in the heart of the mountains, far from human habitation, in free communion with Nature, and gave himself up to the worship of Buddha.

The *Kaido Ki* (Travels on the Tokai Road) and the *Tokwan Kiko* (An Eastern Journey through Kwantô) are both famous travel experiences on the journey from Kyoto to Kamakura. We might expect only allusians to the scenery or local features of the regions the authors passed through to be sufficient material for the records. But in reality they indulge in effusions of religious emotions in many places in these books. For instance, one of the authors seeing a crab walking sideways on the beach, falls to moralising that though man often ridicules the one-sided walk of the crab yet he ha no right to do so, since he himself does not walk the right road of human morality with religious faith; once on looking at a little lobster in the sea the author was filled with the melancholy reflection that man's life is as ephemeral

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as that of such a little creature. Thus all objects and phenomena that met their eyes were turned into subjects for sad speculation from the Buddhistic doctrine of the mutability of things mundane. We can well understand how the people in that age were full of the ardour of religious feeling.

The *Heike Monogatari* (History of the Taira Family) is a picturesque epic in prose, containing chivalrous stories of battles, tragedies in love caused by the necessity of going to war, interwoven with descriptions of occsions when the beautiful poems in the book were composed, all the stories, in shorts being poetically told in beautiful, pathetic language. But the predominant tone in the work is the author's conception of life under the influence of the Buddhistic teachings of the frailty of human life. "The sound of the bell in the temple conveys the meaning of the changeableness of all things in this world, while the bo-tree [under which Sakyana is believed to have passed away] portends the fatal destiny to which all prosperity is doomed," is the passage that begins the romance, and the author steadily proceeds to describe the history of the rise and fall of the Taira family which for a time enjoyed such political prosperity and success but was doomed to final ruin. The author ends by describing how Tokuko Taira, later Lady Kenreimon-in, consort of the Emperor Takakura, one of the survivors of the family, after taking the veil, spent her last days in the Jakkô-in Abbey in the northern suburbs of Kyoto.

Indeed, the story should not be regarded only as a romantic history but rather as a means by which the author intended to express his religious emotions characteristic of Buddhism, as evoked by the historical tragedy of the military clan. In other words, he wished to embody his adration of Buddha in his work.

Again *Yokyoku* or *Utai* (a form of vocal solo or concert peculiar to Japanese music) is also in one sense an expression of the adoration of Buddha. Many of the themes of the music contain the moral that by the prayers of a travelling monk the disembodied soul, after wandering about the earth still trammel'ed with the affairs of this world, at last is transported to Paradise in joy and satisfaction.

But while thus the Buddhistic elements entered into the literature of the country in great proportions an exaggerated tendency to pedantry became pronounced. Such a tendency usually appears when the creative genius of the nation or race is on the decline, as in the case of the mediaeval literature of Europe. That is to say, the men of letters who lacked creaitve power were fain to indulge in research of old literature, which then developed a pedantic tendency. For this tendency, it must be confessed, there was a potent cause, which was the class strife that had airsen.

As has been pointed out, the nobility had lost their actual social power which was then seized by the *samurai* class, hitherto inferior to them. They were no longer rivals of the latter in either military or financial power. The political power, too, was taken into the hands of the *samurai* class, while the nobility could enjoy only the profitless advancement of their high Court ranks. Only one merit placed the nobility above the *samurai* class, their superior learning. By this means alon they endeavoured to gratify their sense of superiority, consciously or unconsciously. By taking advantage of the ignorance of the warrior class, they paraded their knowledge of etiquette and ritual and old customs. Some of the nobles who had the study of poetry as an hereditary profession withheld their knowledge from the public, and therefore the *samurai* who were desirous to be instructed in poetry were obliged to study under their noble masters for many years before they were initiated into its secrets. The so-called "Kokin denju" that is initiation into the difficult passages of the *Kokinshu* (the noted Anthology) was a form of this esoteric teaching. The Nijôs and the Reizeis, two noble families, were the acknowledged authorities on the *Kokinshu*, and monopolized the said privilege regarding the book. There was even the custom

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of giving the secrets in the interpretation of certain passages in some authoritative work to only one of the children of the master of the profession. Such exclusiveness of course sprang out of the detemination of the nobility to stand on the same ground with the *samurai* by dint of their learning.

Even nowadays this practice of esoteric teaching which has continued since the Muromachi age prevails, by which the masters or mistresses of the *koto* (musical instrument), the art of flower arrangement, tea ceremony, etc., receive extra fees each time some special subject held as a secret is taught.

A pedantic tendency strongly characterizes the literature of that time. In the *Heike Monogatari* and the *Gempei Seisuiki* the tendency is observable. In these works an episode is almost invariably told with reference to parallel instances either old or recent, often taken from Chinese or Indian tradition. In the description of a sword, for instance, an enumeration of the distinguished swords belonging to the Minamoto family is set forth, with reference to their characteristic features and antecedents. Such a lengthy description is carried on, without any obviously important coonection with the subject in question, at the risk of tedium to the reader. The only possible reason is undoubtedly the desire on the part of the author to parade his erudition.

In the same way, the abundant publication of essays and compilations of miscellaneous data during this age which gave rise to a mass of legends that became current in later ages can be explained only by the same reason, besides the fact that the creative power was lacking in that age.

During the period under review, two literary innovations came into existence. They were the *imayo* and *renga*. As to the first of these, I have already given details in a former issue of this magazine. The *renga* is a form of literary game, in which the participators successively cap verses, in such a way as to make a complete poem between two, the latter's line (consisting of 14 words) being then taken up by another who supplies the commencing line of 17 words to make another complete poem, and so on. Thus a series of fifty poems or one hundred poems produced is each called the *gojuin* (fifty verse series) and *hyakuin* (one hundred verse series). Such a practice is no more than a device to derive diversion from it. In time the first line of the poem came to be adopted as another form of poetry, complete in itself. This new invention is the *haiku*.

In the epoch we are considering the "No" play made a great development. As may be remembered, reference has been made in this magazine to the *yokyoku* (or *utai*) which was sung all the while such a play went on.

Last of all, I may mention something about woman's position during the Muromachi period. A remarkable feature of the literature during this age was the less frequency of cases in which love affairs in connection with women are treated. It was indeed since the Kamakura period that the position of Japanese women came to be degraded. This was due to the doctrines of Buddhism and Confucianism wbich had a tendency to bring down her position. It is to be supposed that such a notion had by this time had enough time to influence the Japanese mind, especially due to the unceasing continuance of civil wars, during which time woman was liable to be looked upon as rather an encumbrance.

Thus the idea of ignoring woman having become a fixed idea and the tendency on the part of the man to deem it below his dignity to indulge in love-affairs are in part responsible for the diminution of love-affairs in the literature of that time. Instead, there appeared many novels treating of the unnatural crimes. The *Akino Yononaga Monogatari* (Tales of Long Autumn Nights), *Gemmu Monogatari* (Fantastic Tales) etc. are among works of this latter kind, which reflected improper customs that prevailed among monks and also among warriors in camp during a campaign.

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A Twilight Story

The Thunder Hater

IN the Tokugawa period there lived a *samurai* named Senzayemon Yumesaki, of the Harima clan. He had only his mother to care for, whom he tenderly loved and was also loyal to his feudal lord. Now his mother was greatly in dread of thunder, so that from the end of April on through the summer months she shrank from stirring out for fear of a sudden peal of thunder. Whenever the weather was in any degree cloudy she could not even touch her food in apprehension of hearing a thunderclap. Therefore when a thunderstorm actually began she was thrown into a panic and after shutting all the doors and windows covered her head under the quilt, and chanted prayers to Buddha.

Strange to say, Senzayemon too was in dread of thunder, even more than his mother, from whom he had apparently inherited the fear. During a thunderstorm he shut himself up in one room with his mother and dared not come out until the storm had passed. So all his retainers and servants ridiculed him behind his back, saying, "This is not like a worthy *samurai*." His comrades too were not slow to revile him, saying:

"One's looks are not a sure index to his mind. Yumesaki looks indeed like an accomplished, valorous warrior but in his soul he is such a coward in regard to thunder. A *samurai* must be ever ready to go out even in a thunderstorm. While he is not under necessity to be sent out it is all very well. But if he should be called on to do so how would he behave in such weather?"

In the month of May in a certain year, rain was continually falling from the middle of the month and it thundered almost every day and night, to the great terror of the inhabitants of the castle-town and neighbourhood. Even those *samurai* who had vaunted their courage were now cowed by the frequency of thunder-bolts. One day it happened that a thunder bolt struck the garden in front of the sitting-room of the feudal lord. On hearing of the disaster, all the men of the household hurried to the scene. But who should be among the first arrivals but the celebrated coward Senzayemon Yumesaki?

At ordinary times such a *samurai* of inferior order, as Yumesaki, would not have been allowed to so closely approach the lord. But in this emergency, the lord was so gladdened by the speedy arrival of his solicitous servant that he let him approach near and bestowed praise upon him. Soon terrific peals of thunder began again to roar and the lord retired to his bed-chamber. Senzayemon Yumesaki, left alone at the spot where he had knelt down, never budged an inch and looked now determined to defend his master in case of danger at the stake of his own life.

The thunder ceased and the weather cleared up. Some days after, the lord summoned Yumesaki to his presence and signified his satisfaction at the faithful bravery he had shown on the recent occasion. Then Yumesaki was offered an increase of 200 *koku* of rice in his annual grant. At this, the feudal minister, Tangé Aoi interposed and said by way of caution:

"Now, Senzayemon, His Lordship has been pleased to grant thee an increase in thy stipend, as a reward for the intrepid solicitude thou hast shown in the last thunderstorm in attending on the person of his Lordship. Moreover, this appreciation of thy services has a special meaning in view of the fact that thou hast hitherto been a great hater of thunder and would never go out into a thunderstorm."

Upon this, Senzayemon calmly replied:

"I indeed am deeply sensible of our lord's benevolence. But I wish to say

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that I am not really a hater of thunder. I do not dread thunder so much. Only my mother being such a hater of thunder I, as her son, tried to feign dreading it as much, in order to alleviate her anxiety for myself which I might have aggravated if I had remained unconcerned. But when the thunder increased in its vehemence so far as to threaten the person of my lord I could not sit idle at home with my mother and so hastened to the palace to wait upon my lord. Thus I value the life of my lord higher than that of my mother in the time of real danger. But now I am told that this grant of an increase is in reward for my services shown at the time, especially because I am a hater of thunder. But the truth is that, as I have just said, I am not a hater of thunder at all, and hence the present grant I consider to be too much for me, so that I should be glad if one half of the offered amount be given me now and the rest kept till the day when I should do some deed of valour. For if I receive the whole grant I shall incur the reputation that Senzayemon, the coward has obtained such an excessive reward through his fortunate weakness of heart about thunder."

The lord acquiesced in the reasonableness of this request and entered him in the ranks of his personal attendants. After this, the people who had abused him for his seeming cowardice now became aware of the truth, and began to praise him the more for his discreet devotion to his mother.

It happened then in a certain year that the lord started on his journey to pay his respects to the shôgun at Edo. On the way, one of the *samurai* in the retinue of the lord, Heijiyemon Todoroki, who had a grudge against the minister Tangé Aoi, burst into the hotel where he thought the latter was lodging, to slay him. But fortunately the hotel proved the wrong one, and he had attacked the hotel where Shume Murasawa was lodging. In the affray that ensued, two of the servants of Murasawa were killed. The intruder escaped into a temple near by. He drove all the monks out and taking up his stand before the altar prepared to meet any onslaught, brandishing his bloody sword, a hideous figure with glaring eyes, in desperate fury, forbidding approach.

The commotion in this post-town was so considerable that timid women and tradesmen tried to escape the danger. The lord, enraged by this violence gave orders to his men to slay the ruffian. Senzayemon Yumesaki who happened to be in the presence of the lord at once took the resolution to volunteer as the opponent of the murderer. He therefore declared his readiness to go. The lord consented, commending his usual presence of mind and discretion. Yumesaki started at once without making any preparation for the encounter, rejecting all offers of as istance.

He went to the gate of the temple quietly, which he found not strongly barred. The enemy was brandishing his bloody sword, seated on a stone in the yard, casting ferocious glances all around. Yumesaki approached with an unruffled air and said in a conciliatory tone: "Your outrage on a strange soil has provoked the indignation of our master. So now I have come to arrest your murderous career. For friendship's sake, I will give you grace by letting you put an end to your life by your own hand. So prepare."

Thereupon, Heijiyemon Todoroki answered:

"Your sympathetic words have indeed greatly touched me. But you see things have gone so far as to make it difficult for me to make a decent appearance by merely committing *harakiri*. So I would take it of more account to be killed by your hand in combat than to merely commit *harakiri*."

But Senzayemon, perseveringly, again remonstrated:

"I know your last fury was not directed against our lord; it was only to revenge yourself upon a private person. Your failure in this attempt only made you desperate, a thing not uncommon with a *samurai* so circumstanced as yourself. Indeed it goes against my heart to slay such a *samurai* as you, as I would slay an ordin-

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ary wretch. So you may take your own life."

But as was to be expected, this attitude of Yumesaki was interpreted by the other sa a scheme to cloak his powerlessness by means of which Senzayemon was going to trick him into committing suicide. From this supposition, the emboldened man proudly shook his head and said:

"It makes no difference in the matter of outrage whether I murder five or ten men, or indeed fifty or one hundred. The penalty comes to the same thing. That is, death. Rather than lose my life at once, I propose to go on an adventure, which may perpetuate my name to posterity, to kill one hundred persons before I finally fall under an enemy's sword. And I will sacrifice you to my resolution first of all."

This harangue had scarcely escaped the lips of Heijiyemon when he fiercely struck at Senzayemon, who then shouted, "Blood-thirsty dog! I would willingly fall the first victim of thy sword," and met his foolhardy enemy with a sharp thrust of his sword. Heijiyemon had expected by his defiant words to intimidate his pacific enemy, but now finding that Senzayemon showed a bold front with unflinching energy, he was disconcerted, giving an advantage to Senzayemon, who promptly took the opportunity and pressed strongly forward. For a while, however, Heijiyemon put up stout opposition to Senzayemon. But the superiority in arms of Senzayemon at last overpowered him. He tried to escape, and flung himself up on the verandah of the temple. Senzayemon by a deft stroke of his swift sword slashed the lower parts of his enemy's legs and cut them off. Then he sprang forward and cut off his head, which he brought into his lord's presence.

The lord welcomed this victorious warrior, and said:

"Heijiyemon enjoyed the reputation of being an excellent master at arms and highly skilled in the art of combat. And now that Senzayemon has vanquished such a stalwart warrior in one moment it does credit to his skill in swordsmanship, which, indeed, he has hitherto kept concealed. He is worthy of honour and admiration." Thus, the lord in his joy granted him the remaining half of the former reward and moreover added one more hundred *koku* of rice to his share.

Senzayemon became highly respected as a paragon of martial valour by all the clan. His nickname "Kaminari (Thunder) Senzayemon," which had formerly signified "coward" now became synonymous with "brave hero" in the people's conception.

We cannot conclude this story without a short account of the origin of the anger of Heijiyemon Todoroki against Tange Aoi. Once Lady Aoi made a pious visit to the Enkyô-ji Temple in Harima province, in a sedan-chair. It happened that Todoroki's wife also came to the temple for the same purpose by a similar conveyance. Their vehicles met. The temple stood on the summit of a high hill and the two women had to climb up a narrow path. Immediately the two chairs began to contest the right of precedence, though Todoroki's wife, an inferior in rank should have given way to Lady Aoi. Her Ladyship's party of course gained precedence by weight of numbers. The discomfited wife of Todoroki took this misfortune much to heart and on her return home told of the affair with bitterness of spirit to her husband.

Todoroki at first rejected all his wife's foolish accusations and complaints with a wise sense of propriety, but after repeated appeals he at last took up his wife's cause. Thereafter, his fatal grudge against his superior officer began to show itself in petty objections which he raised against almost everything the latter proposed or did. Todoroki's hatred and animosity were augmented by the supercilious cold attitude of Aoi, so much so that at last the revengeful spirit of Todoroki burst forth during the journey of their lord.

When all the circumstances of this tragedy were revealed the people praised the name of Yumesaki and denouuced the foolish wife of the unfortunate Heijiyemon Todoroki as being the cause of her husband's death.

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Anecdotes of Literary Men

HAKUCHO Masamune is one of the elder writers of the first order of to-day. He had been for some time considered as belonging to the past when all of a sudden in 1924 he wrote and published a drama which proved that he had still a future before him, to the great surprise of the reading public in Japan. It is told that he was once an earnest Christian and was baptised during his middle-school days. Immediately after finishing his middle-school course he went to Osaka with his elder sister, and thence came to Tokyo where he entered the colledge of literature in Waseda University.

He was then leading a wretched, lonely life in a small boarding-house at Ushigome, Tokyo. At that time Kôyô Ozaki was the lion of the day, with considerable influence in the literary world. It happened that whenever he chanced to pass the house of Ozaki he was seized with an indefinable emotion and started to run.

During his college days, he was respected by his school-mates and teachers for his talent and scholarship. In those days it was the custom in that University to tease the young teachers who had graduated from the Imperial University with vexing questions. One of the Professors in that university was Rinjirô Takayama (later Dr. Takayama), a trenchant critic gifted with a commanding style. He was the rage among the students of the day and his works are still popular. He was then teaching English. So Masamune often bombarded Professor Takayama in the English class. Once the noted Professor made a slip in translation. The boy never let such an opportunity escape; he attacked the Professor at once. But it was not long before Professor Takayama had to remove to Okitsu for the benefit of his health. During his stay there, it is said, Takayama never stinted his praise of Masamune's scholarship.

At another time in an English class Prof. A. made a wrong use of the definite article. Thereupon the shrewd boy mildly demanded an explanation from his master of the use he had made of the article. The Professor then tried to gloss over the mistake he had made by making a haphazard answer. But the boy was not to be put off in such a way. He stood up and began to point out the Professor's mistake by enumerating about ten uses of the definite article. Thus the Professor had to submit.

The Professor is still teaching in Waseda University; every time he comes to explain the use of the definite article in the grammar class he gives about ten uses of the definite article, and recalling the incident with Masamune never fails to add that all this knowledge came from his former pupil.

For some time after his graduation, he was engaged in the compilation of the serial books of extension lectures on literature, of that university, and was besides a dramatic reporter for the *Yomiuri* newspaper. As he was then a bachelor he took to a wild, dissipated life. According to his own confession made afterwards it was the necessity for raising money to meet the debts he had incurred in courting a woman that first prompted him to write a novel.

When his masterpiece *Quo Vadis* appeared a certain critic praised the work as the best masterpiece in contemporary literature. Then his *Mud Puppet*, *A Resigned Woman*, *Poison*, *To Where?*, *Crepuscule*, etc. followed in succession. The keynote that pervades all these works is that kind of nihilism which is apt to be espoused by a man of dissolute habits, as well as the elegiac tone of a life doomed to darkness and despair, wailing and moaning amidst the hard realities of this world. We may assume that the scenes depicted in these works reveal the author's own experiences.

Jun-ichiro Tanizaki

Born in the family of a stockbroker, Jun-ichiro Tanizaki was a genuine native

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of Tokyo. From childhood he had indulged in reading the works of the Edo age and taking pleasure in the *Ukiyo-ye* (Japanese genre pictures) of the same period.

While studying at the First Middle School he was famous as the most talented scholar in the whole school and so was advanced from the first grade to the third, a circumstance never before known in the history of the school.

It is told that in the class of Japanese composition his teacher often applauded his talents as a writer and read extracts from his compositions by way of stimulating the other students. And the students sang his praise in chorus.

Tanizaki had already evinced at this time an abnormal tendency. During the noon recess at school when urged by his class-mates he would often climb up to the teacher's platform and hold forth in an elated frame of mind in a lecture upon the licentious scenes depicted in Saikaku, Tanehiko and other writers. He also often boasted of fancied resemblance to the star actor, Kikugoro Onoye.

Before long he entered the First High School. But his life and mind were tinged with a decadent tendency, so that his attendance at school became lax, as he was immersed day and night in intemperance and profligacy. Once while travelling in the country he stopped at an inn and was as usual indulging himself. The amazed landlord challenged his name and calling, whereupon the future novelist made the curt reply, "I am a novelist," and then preserved a serene, nonchalant air.

During his college days his dissolute habits were not mended and from this cause and for lack of means he was obliged to give up his studies in the course of Japanese literature in the college of literature of the Tokyo Imperial University.

After quitting the University, he started a magazine under the title of *Shin-Shicho* (New Thoughts), with some of his friends, in which he published *A Boy*, *Tattoo*, etc. In these he portrayed with masterly skill intense sensual emotions. These works were far superior to the cut and dry works then coming out, of the tendency of Naturalism. It is true that before he published these stories in his magazine he had once sent in to a certain magazine some of them, but the editor of the magazine mercilessly threw the MSS. into a wastepaper basket.

Till She Was Deserted, *The Devil*, *Murder of O-Tsuya*, etc., came from his pen, and gave a shock to the reading world. All his works have the flavour of the Edo age, and are characterized by exquisite treatment of sensual scenes.

He it was that first introduced the treatment of masochistic characters into Japanese literature. In this respect his name deserves to be remembered.

Misses de Bassompierre, daughters of the Belgian Ambassador at Tokyo, Dancing a Japanese Dance.

Mlles de Bassompierre, filles de l'ambassadeur de Belgique à Tokyo, dansant une danse japonaise.

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Of late years he has turned to writing drama. *Because I Love You* and *Okuni and Gohei* are representative works in this line. *Okuni and Gohei* obtained a prize from the National Literature Society and was performed by first-rate actors such as Kôshirô Matsumoto, Kan-ya Morita, and others at the Imperial Theatre.

He has taken an interest in cinema plays, and has produced some dramas for the screen, one of which, the *Amateur Club*, prepared by the Japan Cinematograph Company, has enjoyed popularity.

Sukeo Miyajima

In these days when proletariat literature is being talked about the only representative of this school of writers is Sukeo Miyajima. He was born in 1886 at Yotsuya in Tokyo. His father was formerly a *samurai* of the Mino clan, in possession of a large estate which enabled him to live in easy circumstances. But after dabbling in speculations, he squandered his forune to the last penny, and became bankrupt. This occurred when his son was in his eleventh year.

After this misfortune the bankrupt father went alone to Formosa, leaving his wife and son. The boy went as an apprentice to a sugar-merchant at the age of thirteen, and later worked as a shop-boy in a woollen cloth dealer's and the Mitsukoshi Department Store.

He developed a fancy for literature and was addicted to reading novels and literary magazines. Taking it into his head to become a disciple of Dr. Rohan Kôda, a great writer of the day he visited the great author to ask him to be admitted into the company of his followers, only to be refused.

At about sixteen years of age he came home afflicted with beri-beri. His father came back from Formosa in misery. During two years from the time when he was seventeen years old till the spring of the year when he became nineteen he was working as a boy in a dentist's house. It was during this time that the foundation of his learning was laid by reading.

In the meantime his father had become a purveyor for the Military Arsenal at Koishikawa, Tokyo, but being cruel to his son the boy could not hope to enjoy a quiet life at home. So keeping aloof from his father's house he managed to support himself by becoming an artisan in the employ of a hosier and sometimes by painting colours on picture post-cards. During this time he had a disappointment in love. In consequence he thought of making a wanderer's journey through Hokkaido but lacking the means to carry him to the island sauntered about the water-front of Yokohama, seeking a vessel that would give him a passage to the island, without taking any food for a few days.

Finding himself thus reduced to helplessness, he had no alternative but to come back to Tokyo. Recalling those days, he has said somewhere in one of his works:

"Hunger in some cases kills a man, but in other cases helps him. For myself, hunger drove me to eat what I could not touch before, and benevolent weariness came in good time to send me into sound sleep. Thus I revived. Yes, indeed I *revived*. I don't know whether I retraced my steps a little in my life's walk. It was not long before I felt that one acquires the conviction of his being worth something through some happy chance. But I also felt that a wound once sustained is never quite healed though on the surface it seems cured."

After that, he went through all the careers of a coolie, advertisement canvasser, stock-jobber's hand, and money-lender's clerk. All the results of his observations during these times are embodied in his *A Miner*, *An Unhated Murderer*, *Till the Death of the Dog*, *Thrown out of Work*, and *Chuji Kunisada*. Besides, he has published an essay on literature for the proletariat. In the hard struggles he has had in life he may be likened to Maxim Gorki. It is quite reasonable that having had such bitter experiences at the bottom of life's ladder he should be the star of the first magnitude in the world of proletariat literature.

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Koji Uno

Like many other writers at the outset of their careers, Kôji Uno had a long experience of distress and chagrin before his talents were duly recognized by the world. He was born in the city of Hakata, Kyushu, in 1891. While studying English literature at Waseda University he became acquainted with Shôjiro Sawada, one of his school fellows, (now one of the most popular actors of the new school).

There was an actress named Miss Junko Watarase (now wife of Sawata), whose affections the two friends each contended to secure. At last Sawata won and the disappointed lover, who had been irregular in his attendance at school gave up his studies at the University and went to live at a relative's in Osaka.

Time went by, and his former classmates such as Kazuo Hirotsu, and Seiji Tanizaki (younger brother of Jun-ichiro Tanizaki) became successful writers of the day. The love-lorn youth was filled with restless anxiety and emulative spirit. At last he came back to the inhospitable Tokyo, where no one was ready to welcome him.

For some time he was living at a boarding-house with his mother, and often went to the Café Oolong, on the Ginza street, with his friend Kazuo Hirotsu, Otokichi Mikami and others to sip black tea, with what little money he had got from the pawn-broker for his clothes.

In such meetings it was his custom to severely criticize the great writers or express complaints against the situation in the literary circles of Japan. Shivering in his thin clothes in mid-winter, and with long, unkempt hair he went about the cafés, while he resentfully complained of his own wretched position as a writer. Even the waitresses at cafés took pity on him and patting his shoulder gently exhorted him to return to his birth-place, pointing it out as the best way open to him under the circumstances.

After careful consideration, however, he decided to sell *tsuboyaki* (shell-fish roasted, shell and all, the flesh being cut into pieces and suitably seasoned) in the yard of the boarding-house in the hope of securing customers from among the boarders. This proved unsuccessful. In the meanwhile, he was doing hack-work such as writing novels for young girls or making translations.

Between these odd jobs he wrote his first novel worthy of the name, *In the Godown*. When he finished this novel, his friend Kazuo Hirotsu submitted it to Sakujiro Kanô, then editor of the *Bunsho Sekai*, a literary magazine for young readers, now abandoned, who, however, had not enough courage to publish it in his magazine.

But when the MSS. were shown to Hakuchô Masamune he praised the work so warmly that at last it won its way into the magazine. As the subject-matter, which had never been undertaken by any author was treated in a singularly eccentric manner it could not fail to attract the attention of the public. His name soon began to be talked about. He had thus obtained celebrity in a moment as a promising writer of the rising generation, no more so poor as to distress his mind about how to get a cup of black tea.

He has ever since been energetically working with ability, writing novels, either long or short, essays, in a bold, remarkable style, and his works appear in almost every notable magazine of to-day. He has displayed so many varied talents that he is nicknamed "chameleon."

Ujo Noguchi

One of the most popular and talented composers of ballads is Ujô Noguchi. One of his recent productions, beginning,

I'm a dry reed in a wild, O!
Thou'rt too a dry reed, O!
Thou and I are both dry reeds,
So we can't either prosper here below.

has enjoyed such popularity that it was and is still sung by men and women of almost every class, university students and children, labourers and bar-maids.

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Noguchi was born in 1872 in the province of Hidachi. He was a graduate of the course of English literature, Waseda University. He himself regrets having ever had university education, because according to him many gross elements in the form of education have entered into his composition to prevent him from expressing his own natural self. He says, "I am extremely sorry for having ever been educated in Waseda."

If asked if he thought his alma mater so bad he would answer in the negative and explain himself thus: "My regret is rather that I have ever had any sort of education. My school education has given me information upon sundry things. Proportionately the world of my genuine heart has contracted and with that I have lost the power of ever giving utterance to my own heart, and expressing my real self. All the incongruous elements that have penetrated into my mind stifle my fresh, natural mentality. Truly I always endeavour to banish all external things but find all attempts fruitless. I even try to forget the alphabet but tenacious memory will never give up its hold. I abstain from reading newspapers, and keep no books in my possession. By all such means I am endeavouring to bring myself back to my true self, but in vain. And, thus I reproach my over-anxious parents for having given me an education at all. If it had been otherwise, let me imagine how more freely and with what more natural genuineness I should have been able to express myself in poetry in the form that would suit me best."

Kazuo Kato.

He was born in 1887 in Wakayama prefecture. Graduating from the Meiji Academy he acted as a clergyman for two years. But later he took part in the social and labour movements. He was at first a humanitarian and was besides regarded as a Tolstoian in a section of literary society.

But in time he could content himself no longer with passively expounding theories, and gradually came to take an active interest in the labour movement. In 1920 he started a magazine entitled *The Labour Movement*, in which he intended to publish socialistic literature and urged at the same time the necessity of socializing literature and art.

This magazine was abandoned, but Katô set about writing a lengthy novel. *From the Notes of a Propagandist* is his maiden effort.

His activities as a staunch champion of revolutionizing literature in the ranks of social novelists such as Sukeo Miyajima, Mimei Ogawa, Karoku Miyachi and others were remarkable.

But he could not be content with the work of a mere literary man. Soon he showed himself as a revolutionist in his speech at the inauguration of the "Freemen's League" which he organized.

Thenceforward all his professions and acts have confirmed the police authorities in their attitude toward Kato in looking upon him as a radical thinker, a character as dangerous as the late Sakaye Osugi. He has thus proved himself to be not merely a fantastic theorist but a socialist with a faculty of working out his own theories.

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Thirty-Third Ordinary General Meeting of the Japan Red Cross Society

THE thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Japan Red Cross Society was held in the Constitution Memorial Building at Gondawara, Aoyama, Tokyo at 10 A. M. on May 6th, in the presence of H. I. M the Empress.

At the appointed hour, H. I. H. Prince Kan-in, the Honorary President of the Society, entered the hall amid the playing of music.

Baron Hirayama, President of the Society, announced the opening of the meeting. He then reported on the business and accounts of the Socity for the fiscal year of 1924-1925, after which a member of the Council was elected at a bye election, Mr. J. Inouye being chosen.

H. I. M. the Empress then arrived, and was welcomed by the Honorary President, the President and other members of the Society. After a short rest, Her Majesty entered the meeting, amid music, ashered by the President. She was accompanied by T. I. H. Dowager Princess Takeda, Princess Higashifushimi, Princess Nashimoto, Princess Higashikuni, Princess Kuni and Princess Li. She was greeted by the members and read the following address.—

"I am glad to attend the thirty-third general meeing of the Japan Red Cross Society and to see you. I appreciate the society's timely relief and sanitary work done with greater exertions than ever. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Juvenile Red Cross, which has been formed recently, is making progress in co-operation with the same organizations in foreign countries. I hope you will exert yourselves more than ever for the development of the society's work."

Her Majesty was replied to by the Honorary President Prince Kan-in as follows:—

"We deem it the greatest honour that our thirty-third ordinary general meeting has been honored by the presence of H.I. M. the Empress and by her gracious Imperial message. A period of forty-nine years has passed since the foundation of the society, during which it has enjoyed ever increasing prosperity. It has at present 2,300,000 members. This is entirely due to the Imperial beneficence, for which we are boundlessly grateful.

"The society had revised its statutes for the object of enlarging its work, when the disastrous earthquake occurred. We are happy to tell Your Majesty, however, that our affairs after the earthquake are on the way to adjustment and our peace time work is making steady progress. We feel it our duty to promote the happiness of human beings more and more. We are resolved to exert ourselves for the accomplishment of our object to be worthy of Your Majesty's great beneficence."

The President then announced the closing of the meeting, and Her Majesty left amid the respectful salutes of those in attendance, and after a recess in the rest-room, she returned to the Imperial Palace.

The meeting was attended by about 18,000 persons, including the Army and Naval Ministers and many prominent officials and gentlemen.

136 persons were awarded Medals for Merit and 1,933 persons Medals for special members.

The President Baron Hirayama's report to the meeting reads substantially as under:—

"In the fiscal year of 1924-1925, the society was granted 10,000 yen by the Imperial Court towards the maintenance fund and 5,000 yen by H. I. M. the Emperor towards the expenses of the gratuitous treatment of patients in its head hospital, besides warm clothes for the charity-patients as usual.

"On April 4th, 1925, Her Majesty specially honoured us with the gift of her autographic ode, which we received with profound gratitude.

"During 1924, our members increased 96,382, bringing their total number up to

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2,300,041. At present, we hold funds amounting 36,422,500 yen. Our relief corps have at present 4,742 members, of whom 258 are physicians, 304 matrons, 11 chief men nurses, 4,026 nurses and 143 men nurses.

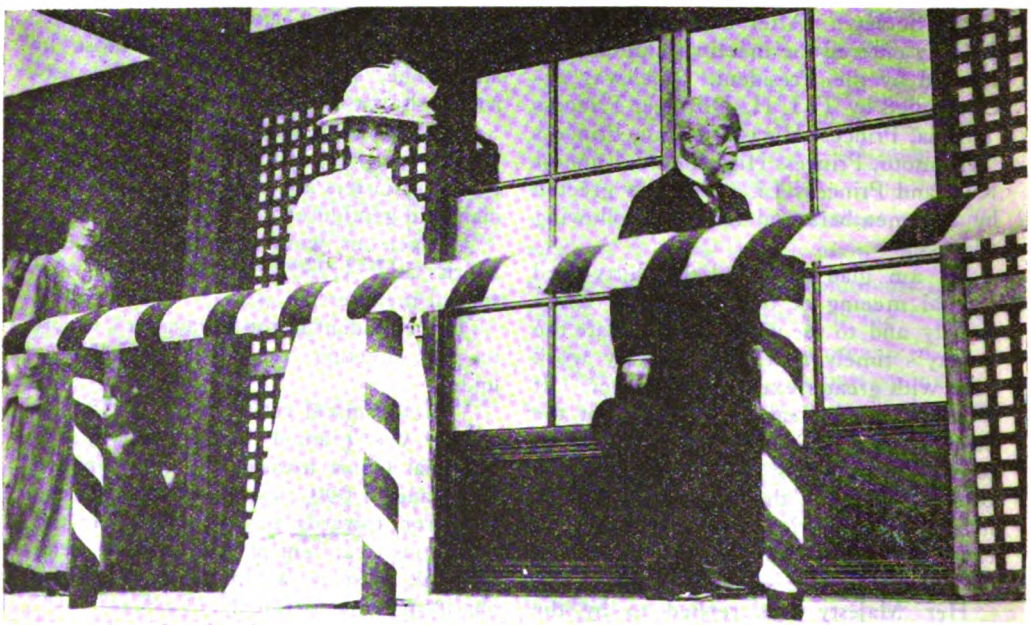
"A relief contingent sent to Saghalien came back in April last as a result of the evacuation of the Japanese troops. We thus brought to an end our work in Alexandrovsk, which had been carried on since July, 1912. In the Chinese disturbances, our Mukden Hospital had a number of wounded men in the Mukden army to treat, and a contingent consisting of the Vice-Director of our head hospital, physicians and nurses was despatched from Tokyo in November last to aid in the relief work there. They came back in December after accomplishing their mission.

"During 1924, 1,031,592 persons entered our head and branch hospitals, which had 2,828,001 outpatents. The number of regular and extraordinary relief offices, maternity hospitals, midwife training schools, lying-in homes, child health consultation offices and summer forest and and sea-shore sanatoriums for children, conducted by our branch offices, have been increasing yearly.

"The Juvenile Red Cross has made marked development, there being 1,557 corps with 386,818 members throughout the country and 12 corps having communication with foreign Juvenile Red Cross Societies."

"We sent 3 deputies to the third general meeting of the Red Cross League, held in Paris in April, 1924."

"The extraordinary relief system, organized after the earthquake in 1923, was dissolved during February to April, 1924. Our head and maternity hospitals took over a number of patients on the closing of the extraordinary hospitals, but their treatment was finished in June, 1924. We spent 4,843,790 yen on the earthquake relief work and we relieved 2,008,783 persons."



H.I.M. the Empress of Japan at the Thirty-Third Ordinary General Meeting of the Japan Red Cross Society.
S.M. l'Impératrice à l'assemblée générale ordinaire de la Société Japonaise de la Croix-Rouge.

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Commercial Intelligence

Exceptionally Law Call Money.—Call money has dropped heavily. This fact and a decrease in the general loans of the Bank of Japan have been the two most noteworthy events in the money market of late. The call money rate, which began to decline some time before May, fell precipitately in May, on the 7th of which it broke down the conventional rate in Tokyo, overnight calls ruling only at 1.2 sen. On the 14th, the latter rate stood at 1.05 sen. Even at the month end, the rate ruled only at 1.45 sen. As the rate stood at 1.4 sen and 1.5 sen in the middle of January and March respectively, the above rate shows a heavy fall. No such low rate has been witnessed in the past four years. The reason is an increase in the supply, while the demand has decreased. The putting out of call money was restricted by the failure of Messrs. Takata & Co., which cautioned the banks in general. But the lowering of the Bank of Japan's rate set their minds at ease. Consequently, they put out money much more than before. Hence, the increased supply as above. Another feature is a decrease in the Bank of Japan's general loans, which broke down the 200,000,000 yen line on May 9th and stood at 177,699,000 yen on May 14th, although they now stand at a little over that limit. There are not frequent cases of the bank's general loans having falled below 200,000,000 yen. The chief reason is found in the fact that the banks having been off their guard upon no active demand for funds being created even after the lowering of the central bank's rate parted with a part of their funds, which went in turn towards reducing the latter's general loans by direct or indirect repayment.

Spring Sericulture.—The Sericultural Section of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry reports the gathering of silk-worm eggs for this season as increasing 2.7 per cent over the normal year, as the sericulturists are unusually intent on work in expectation of an advance in the price of cocoons. The silkworms are generally in pretty good condition and the mulberry crop is thought to be nearly enough to feed them satisfactorily.

Nationalization of Electric Power Business.—The nationalization of the hydro-electric industry is being advocated by some politiceans, and its realization is considered by them as having considerable possibility.

Clearing of Bills in May.—During May, the bills cleared in the Tokyo Clearing House numbered 1,062,000 valued at 2,977,595,000 yen. As compared with April, the number increased 20,000 and the value 107,114,000 yen. The total from January to May amounted to 4,980,000 bills valued at 13,877,326,-000 yen, an increase of 720,000 in number and 2,417,841 000 yen in value over the same interval. 1924. This increase was principally owing to an increment in deposit certificates on account of call-money and not to the growth of commercial transaction.

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From the Japanese Press

Prince Chichibu's Visit to Europe. —H. I. H. Prince Chichibu, who is looked upon by the Japanese people as a typical representative of young Japan as much as the Prince Regentm his elder brother, and who is pure, sagacious and full of humanness, is leaving Japan for Europe to prosecute his studies there, in realization of his cherished desire and we wish him good healath and bon voyage, says the *Tokyo Nichi-Nichi* in its editorial of May 24th.

The Imperial Prince is expected to spend the first year of his stay in Europe in home life in a high class British family and then to study sociology in Oxford University. It is unprecedented in Japan for an Imperial prince to study abroad. Prince Chichibu is going to make a special study of sociology in the most authoritative institution of learning in England, which does credit to the wise consideration of his Imperial parents and to his own intelligence.

Social unrest has been felt horribly in the world since the World War, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the attention of human politics is being directed to removing this unrest. The atmosphere of this social unrest is enveloping Japan more and more closely, where it is felt keenly that the political centre is progressing rapidly towards the same object as above.

England, in which Prince Chichibu will stay for the most part of his visit to Europe, is noted for her proper and sincere political policy taken against social unrest. The Prince's study of sociology in this senior country and his acquisition of a true knowledge of her social affairs will, the paper trusts, have agreat effect on the Japanese national life in future and will make a new departure in Japanese social work. It is also hoped by the paper that the Prince's going to England will be taken advantage of by the Japanese Government and people in trying to advance rapidly their social and relief works, which will be the best parting-present to the Prince.

The Strike in Tsingtau. — The spinners' strike in Tsingtau has developed to so serious a condition that the Japanese Minister in Peking has strictly cautioned the Chinese Government against it and the Japanese Navy Department is said to have decided to despatch a destroyer to safeguard the Japanese residents. The *Chugai Shogyo* highly regrets the frequent occurence of such events since the strike in Shanghai.

The strike does not seem to be purely economical in nature, unlike other strikes of purely economic aspect and much like the Shanghai strike, for it is noted that the wires are being pulled by Communists and it is an anti-foreign agitaion in part. The paper fears the recent occurrence of one strike after another in China is the result of the mistake in Japanese policy taken towards the Shanghai strike, and regards with apprehension its future effects.

The strike of spinners in China is a great menace to the Japanese businessmen interested in the spinning industry in China, and if a satisfactory solution of the question should not be found and this state of things be allowed to exist, the Japanese spinning enterprises in that country will have to take a negative and conservate

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attitude, which will not promote Japan's economic interests in China. The paper thinks the question to be too important to pass without due notice on the part of the Japanese Government, which ought to adopt a thoroughly effective plan to cope with the situation.

Tariff Revision and Commodity Prices.—A general revision in the import tariff has been long under consideration. Its importance is generally admitted at present, when the economic circumstances show a great change from the date of enactment of the existing rates.

Regarding the general policy of tariff revision, the *Tokyo Asahi* wishes the Government not to make the revision a means for increasing the state revenue, which should be absolutely avoided, at present. It is of first importance to consider the commodity question, which has been left in abeyance sice the war and which has the closest bearing upon the unfavourable balance of foreign trade, the heavy fall of the exchange and the difficulty attending a reduction in the state and local expenditures. No social policy can be more effectual than the solution of the commodity price question to moderate the hardships of the national life. Tariff revision liable to intensify the rise of commodities, should be avoided. The Seiyu Party seems to be advocating the protection of the chemical industry as a measns for the establishment of the country on an industrial basis. But no industry can, be hoped to develop simply by protection, argues the paper, as may be seem in the example of the official protection given liberally to the dye stuff industry with no success. The best way for agricultural villages to prosper is considered by most people to be to bring up the price of rice by imposing a high import duty on it. Steady development of agricultural villages can not be hoped for by that means in the opinion of the paper, and it would only tend to increase the high cost of living.

In considering a general revision of the import tariff, it is important to first give thought to the stabilization of the national life, and it would be danagerous to intensify its insecurity by an increased tariff. There are, however, not a few industrial lines, development of which may be expected by increased tariff protection, without affecting in any particular way the national life. These industries ought to be accorded additional protection. It must be remembered, however, that a revision of the import tariff is desired mainly for stabilizing the national life and not for protecting industry.

Japanese-American Relations.—The unpleasant feeling between the Japanese and American peoples seems to have moderated considerably now, says the *Osaka Mainichi* in its editorial of May 7th, which looks on the fact as a matter of the greatest congratulation not only for the two countries, but for world peace and human happiness. Still, the diplomatic relations between the two countries are not yet quite in an tranquil state, and their improvement is a thing, ever on the minds of thoughtful Japanese and American people.

Both Mr. Matsudaira, the Japanese Ambassador in Washington and Mr. Bancroft, the American Ambassador in Tokyo have created a good impression on the respective countries. Mr. Bancroft

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is studying not only the Japanese position in relation to the immigration question, but Japan and the Japanese national character.

It is beyond dispute, the papaer continues, that this will be fruitful in improving Japanese-American relations. The unsatisfactory condition of relations was essentially because of lack of understanding of Japan and the Japanese people by most American people. Had they understood the Japanese people as much as the Japanese people understood America and the Americans the question never would have grown so difficult. The paper keenly feels the necessity of asking the American people to strive first of all to understand, more earnestly than before, Japan and the Japanese people.

The American Ambassador stated in a speech that the fundamental condition for the two countries' rapprochement lies in mutual erspect and friendship. He is quite right. No amity can ever be hoped for between the two countries, argues the paper, unless the two peoples respect each other and are friendly. The paper sees a differece in the mutlal respect and friendship of the towards the white and yellow races, considertng that they do not grant to the Japanese what they granted to the white race merely because of the difference of skin colour.

The Japanese people have been treating the American question with caution and prudence more than supposed by the Americans keeping always in mind not to give way to their emotions and believing that the foundation of peace is international friendship as Mr. Bancroft rightly says.

Balance of International Accounts.—The Finance Minister Mr. Hamaguchi speaking recently at the Governors' Conference, touched upon the question of the balance of Japan's international accounts, viewing the existing as well as future conditions with a feeling of insecurity. For remedying the matter, some laws had been created and a committee had been formed with a view to finding means to ecomize international payments, at his instance. He desired the spreading of the habit of using domestic products instead of imported goods through the help of the local Governors.

The *Tokyo Asahi* in its editorial of May 6th appreciates Mr. Hamaguchi's warning against the future balance of our international accounts, but it regrets to note that in the above speech, the able financier did not suggest fundamental means remove the cause of the insecoure feeling.

The greatest easiness was felt by England as to the abnormal balance of the international accounts since the war, with an enormous excess of imports over exports, a great decrease in international credits and a considerable increase in debts to America. Recently, however, her international accounts have been showing a balance much better than before, which has brought up the foreign exchange to par and has allowed the ban on gold to be lifted. This financial improvement was effected by a great retrenchment in the state expenditure, by the liquidation of the national debts, by a mitigation of the national burden and by a fall in commodity prices.

Contrary are things in Japan. The Government authorities speak of the impossibility of lightening the national burden, while they profess to reform the taxation system. Mr. Hamaguchi speaks of a ray of hope of a revival in the financial world, thanks to the administrative and financial reforms and re-adjustment. The financial retrenchment is, however, to simply and negatively limit the expansion of expenditure and not to greatly curtail it as in England. This policy is not the means to develop the national resources or th foster the growth of industry, for which the general budget must be cut down. Moreover, the issue of bonds is increasing yearly in Japan, while England has succeeded in reducing her national debts. In the circumstances, no improvement in the financial world can be hoped for by

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us, and so long as it is left unimproved, it is impossible to expect a favourable balance of the international accounts.

Mr. Hamaguchi emphasizes the necessity of restricting the importation of foreign goods. But that cannot be avoided, since commodity prices here are higher than those abroad and the people cannot be forced to use domestic products, while there are the better imported goods to be purchased at a cheaper price, however they are encouraged to use them be appealing to their patriotism.

The curtailment of payments to foreign lands and the use of domestic products are good to a degres, if there are suitable methods of doing it. Still the effect produced will be slight. The paper wonders way the Finance Minister has not considered seriously the fundamental achievement of the object.

The resuet of this year's foreign trade is being watched publicly with more than usual, interest for the recovery of the yen from its declining tendency has an important bearing upon the future. The question of lifting the ban on gold, too has much more to do with the result of this year's foreign trade than with the English removing the embargo argues the *Tokyo Asahi* in its editorial of June 3rd.

For the first five months of 1925, the import trade amounted to about 1,300,000,000 yen and the export trade to about 800,000,000 yen, with the balance of about 500,000,000 yen against us. When compared with the same interval, 1924, the imports were nearly unchanged, while the exports increased 140,000,000 yen, which is nearly equivalent to a decrease in the balance against us. From these figures, we can nearly gather the maxinum amount, by which the imports will exceed the exports in this year's import period, although there is still a month within the first half year. The question is how much of the unfavourable balance can be compensated for by an excess of exports over imports in the export season in the second half year.

In the past five months, nearly all imported goods lost in value from the same interval, 1924, except raw cotton. which reached 530,000,000 yen, gaining about 200,000,000 yen over the corresponding period last year. This latter figure made the total import trade no less than that of last year. Such an increase of raw cotton was caused by the advance of its price per picul by 21 yen over last year. On the other hand, iron, timber, machinery, etc. for the work of re-construction fell off over 130,000,000 yen, which sets off the increase in raw cotton. The export trade increased 140,000,000 yen mainly because of a decline in the exchange. The increased exports are headed by raw silk increasing 47,000,000 yen and cotton fabrics gaining 36,000,000 yen.

The balance of foreign trade for the second half year will be decided by the amount of raw cotton on the import side and by that of raw silk and cotton fabrics on the export side. The paper estimates the yearly balance of foreign troele against us to be in the vicinity of 350,000,000 yen, of which 100,000,000 yen may be covered by the balance of general international accounts in favour of us, leaving 250,000,000 yen to be paid by an increase in our foreign debts or a decrease in the specie held abroad.

This unfavourable balance of foreign trade continually in the past is a serious question of our national existence which must be taken into serious consideration by the whole nation. Its solution cannot be simple. It is possible and advantageous to prevent the importation of some goods, while it is impossible and disadvantageous as to other goods. The same may be said of the export trade. It is also necessary to individually consider an increase in our international receipts other than foreign trade. We must seek and settle a suitable means for the most satisfactory solution of the question of the continued excess of imports over exports. The total unfavourable balance of foreign trade for this year will amount to over 350,000,000 yen, and as no improvement of the exchange can be hoped for a time to come, the paper desires a deliberate attention and decision of the nation.

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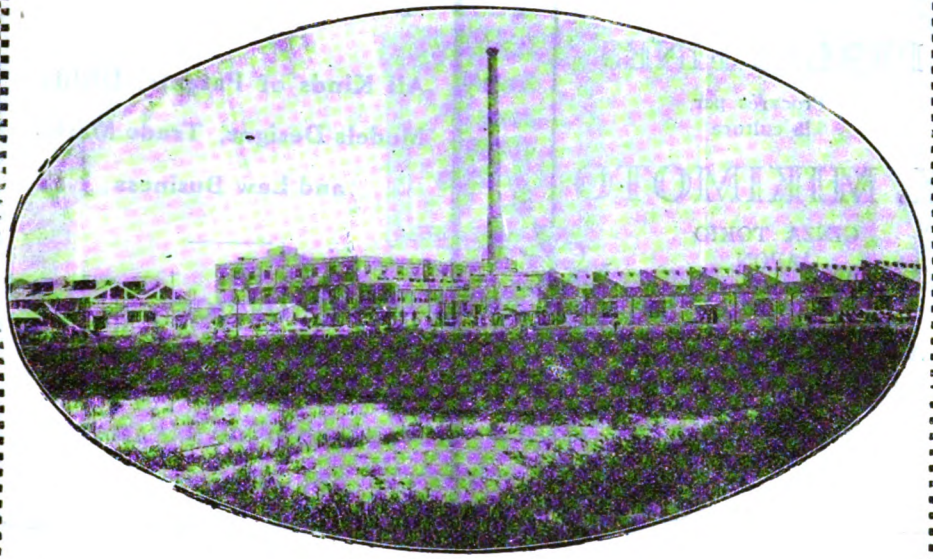

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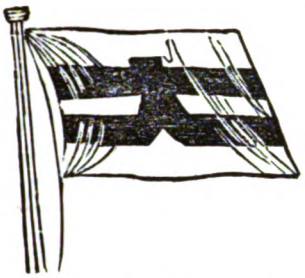

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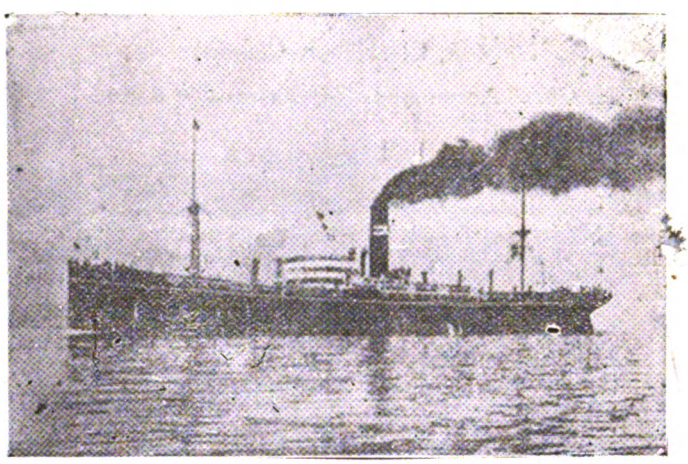

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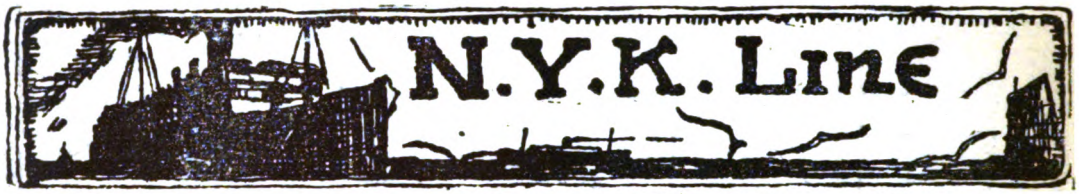

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